FRIDAY
February 13, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
24 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 57 • No. 37

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

To subscribe,
give a missed call at
9828331787
or scan QR code

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources,
River Development &
Ganga Rejuvenation

ICDS

International Conference
on Dam Safety-2026
Safe & Secure dams-
A Journey towards
Viksit Bharat

Shri C. R. Patil
Hon'ble Union Minister
Ministry of Jal Shakti

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Government of
Karnataka
Water Resources
Department

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DAM SAFETY (ICDS) - 2026

A two-day international conference aimed at strengthening
dam safety practices through policy dialogue, technical exchange, and global collaboration.

13th February 2026, Friday at 9.30 a.m.

J. N. Tata Auditorium,
Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Malleswaram, Bengaluru

Inauguration by :
Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Presided by :
Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Chief Guests

Shri V. Somanna
Hon'ble Union Minister of State in
the Ministry of Jal Shakti and
Ministry of Railways

Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhary
Hon'ble Union Minister of
State in Ministry of Jal Shakti

Ku. Shobha Karandlaje
Hon'ble Minister for State, Ministry of Micro,
Small and Medium Enterprises and Labour &
Employment & Hon'ble Member of Parliament,
Bengaluru North Constituency

Shri N. S. Boseraju
Hon'ble Minister of Minor Irrigation,
Science and Technology,
Government of Karnataka

Dr. C. N. Ashwath Narayana
Hon'ble Member of Legislative
Assembly, Malleshwaram
Constituency, Bengaluru

A global platform for bringing together international and national experts, policymakers, engineers, researchers, academicians and stakeholders for knowledge sharing on emerging challenges, innovations, best practices and policies related to dam safety.

Supported by

WORLD BANK GROUP

DRIP
Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project

Organized by
DOWR, RD&GR, MoJS and WRD, Govt. of Karnataka

"To protect and respect our vibrant culture and tradition,"
is a Fundamental Duty of every citizen.
This is affirmed by our Constitution.

Published by : Water Resource Department, GoK

J BG-BGE

FRIDAY
February 13, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
24 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 57 • No. 37

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

To subscribe, give a missed call at 9828331787 or scan QR code

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

THE HINDU TECH SUMMIT

2-day meet opens with focus on education

FULL COVERAGE » PAGES 20 & 21

AERIAL BOOST

IAF to get 114 Rafales as DAC clears purchases

NEWS » PAGE 14

AMICUS CURIAE REPORT

Imran Khan left with '15% vision' in Pak. jail

WORLD » PAGE 16

PARLEY

Is a double-engine govt. crucial for growth?

Will alignment at State and Centre benefit voters?

OPINION » PAGE 11

THE ARCHITECT

Hardik stars for India with all-round display

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

Leadership: Cong. in no mood to take a call

BENGALURU
Despite repeated efforts by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to persuade the Congress high command to implement the reported "power-sharing formula", the party leadership appears to be in no mood to take a decision for the time being. » PAGE 8

Trade unions protest against labour codes

BENGALURU
Workers and trade union activists gathered at Town Hall in response to the general strike called by the joint committee of trade unions against the four labour codes. » PAGE 4

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

Zero tariff textiles exports to U.S. possible for India: Goyal

Commerce Minister says India will receive concessions on textiles exports as Dhaka got through its deal with Washington; the agreement is being finalised, will have details in fine print, he adds

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

India will receive the same benefits on textiles exports under its interim trade agreement with the U.S. as Bangladesh gained through its own deal, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

"Just as Bangladesh has a facility that if raw material is purchased from America, then if you process it and make cloth and export it, then it will be available at zero reciprocal tariff; India also has the same facility and India will also get it," he said.

The Minister pointed out that India's agreement with the U.S. is still being finalised. "When the interim agreement is finalised, then you will get to see this in the fine print," Mr. Goyal told presspersons.

> Bangladesh has a facility that if raw material is purchased from America... then it [textiles exports] will be available at zero reciprocal tariff; India also has the same facility and India will also get it [trade benefits]
>
> **PIYUSH GOYAL**
> Union Commerce Minister

In an interview with *The Hindu* earlier this week, Mr. Goyal said that the interim deal is expected to be signed in mid-March.

Trade provisions

Under the Bangladesh-U.S. deal inked on Monday, reciprocal tariffs on Bangladesh's exports to the U.S. will be reduced to 19% overall. However, the deal also has a provision saying that, if Bangladesh imports cotton from the U.S., then the tariffs on its textile exports will fall to 0%.

The Congress had attacked the Centre regarding this clause, with Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, saying that India, which is expected to see tariffs of 18% on exports to the U.S. under the interim agreement, has already been rendered uncompetitive on textiles even before the agreement is signed.

"He [Rahul Gandhi] spread another lie in Parliament that Bangladesh has got more benefits from the trade deal than India," Mr. Goyal said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

MEA refuses to deny claims on Russian imports

NEW DELHI
After a U.S. official said that India had cut import of Russian oil, as the U.S. "wanted [India] to," the Ministry of External Affairs has once again refused to deny the claims. » PAGE 12

New CPI series marks retail inflation at 2.75%

Index overhaul

The 2024-base CPI basket includes 358 items vs. earlier 299, with goods covered rising from 259 to 308 and services from 40 to 50

- Number of rural markets covered rose from 1,181 to 1,465, urban from 1,114 to 1,395, with 12 online platforms added
- The weightage assigned to the food and beverages category is now 36.75% from earlier 45.86%

- The CPI framework has been expanded from 6 broad groups to 12, offering more granular tracking of goods and services

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Thursday released the Consumer Price Index (CPI) data based on a new series with 2024 as base year, placing retail inflation in January 2026 at 2.75%.

As this is the first data release under the new series, a historical comparison is not yet possible.

The new series of the CPI, which updated the base year from 2012, was released in the presence of MoSPI Secretary Saurabh Garg, Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran, and other officials of the Ministry.

The total number of items covered under the new series has increased to 358 from the 299 items in the older series.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Basavaraj arrested after SC rejects bail plea

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hours after the Supreme Court rejected his bail plea, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on Thursday arrested K.R. Puram MLA Byrathi Basavaraj of the BJP from the Kempegowda International Airport on Thursday.

Mr. Basavaraj, who was allegedly involved in 'Biklu' Shiva murder case, had approached the Supreme Court seeking bail after the High Court rejected his plea. CID officials had questioned him twice earlier and asked him to appear for further questioning, but Mr. Basavaraj was subsequently not to be traced and applied for anticipatory bail. The CID began a search for him after the High Court rejected his bail plea.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 2

Conditional nod for IPL matches at Chinnaswamy Stadium

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After much deliberations over cricket matches to be played at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here, the Karnataka government on Thursday agreed to allow the Indian Premier League (IPL) matches at the stadium with certain conditions.

Ending speculation about the home ground of the defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) hosting matches, the government cleared the way for the matches even as it will spell out conditions over the next couple of days.

It is speculated that spectators to be allowed against the capacity of the stadium could be brought down to have better crowd management and apply safety conditions.

As per convention, the defending champions will host the inaugural match of the IPL season as well as Qualifier 2 and finals. With decks cleared, it is expected that RCB, the reigning champions, will start off the IPL 2026 in Bengaluru. Incidentally, Bengaluru was host to the 2016 IPL final – before the convention was adopted – but lost the match to Sunrisers Hyderabad.

The State government banned cricket matches at the Chinnaswamy Stadium after 11 persons died in the stampede as the crowd surged into the stadium on June 4 when the winning RCB team was celebrating its maiden IPL victory inside the stadium.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 5

CM to present his 17th Budget on March 6

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who holds the Finance portfolio, is scheduled to present his record 17th Budget on March 6.

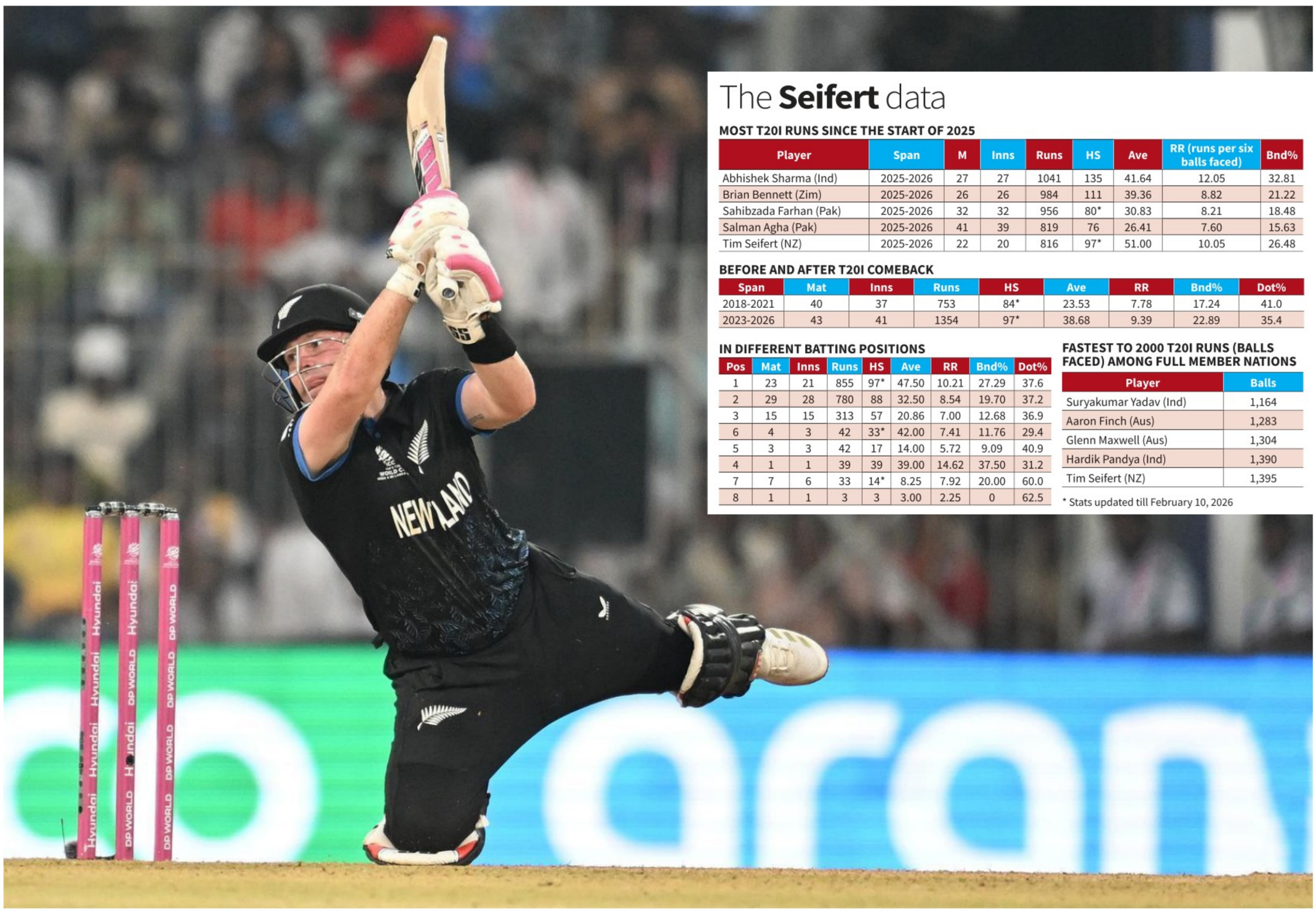
The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday approved the Budget to be presented on March 6 and the Budget session of the legislature to be held between March 6 and March 27.

There will be 14 days of legislature session (barring holidays), the Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minster H.K. Patil said in his post-Cabinet briefing.

RELATED REPORTS ON » PAGE 5

T20 titan Seifert's 'Bam Bam' redemption

After a dismal 2021 World Cup and heartbreaking absences in 2022 and 2024, the stars are finally aligning for the 31-year-old Kiwi; the dashing wicketkeeper-opener has started his 2026 campaign with two match-winning knocks in Chennai, the city where he had to isolate himself for two weeks after testing positive for Covid during IPL 2021



B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The **Seifert** data

MOST T20I RUNS SINCE THE START OF 2025

Player	Span	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Ave	RR (runs per six balls faced)	Bnd%
Abhishek Sharma (Ind)	2025-2026	27	27	1041	135	41.64	12.05	32.81
Brian Bennett (Zim)	2025-2026	26	26	984	111	39.36	8.82	21.22
Sahibzada Farhan (Pak)	2025-2026	32	32	956	80*	30.83	8.21	18.48
Salman Agha (Pak)	2025-2026	41	39	819	76	26.41	7.60	15.63
Tim Seifert (NZ)	2025-2026	22	20	816	97*	51.00	10.05	26.48

BEFORE AND AFTER T20I COMEBACK

Span	Mat	Inns	Runs	HS	Ave	RR	Bnd%	Dot%
2018-2021	40	37	753	84*	23.53	7.78	17.24	41.0
2023-2026	43	41	1354	97*	38.68	9.39	22.89	35.4

IN DIFFERENT BATTING POSITIONS

Pos	Mat	Inns	Runs	HS	Ave	RR	Bnd%	Dot%
1	23	21	855	97*	47.50	10.21	27.29	37.6
2	29	28	780	88	32.50	8.54	19.70	37.2
3	15	15	313	57	20.86	7.00	12.68	36.9
6	4	3	42	33*	42.00	7.41	11.76	29.4
5	3	3	42	17	14.00	5.72	9.09	40.9
4	1	1	39	39	39.00	14.62	37.50	31.2
7	7	6	33	14*	8.25	7.92	20.00	60.0
8	1	1	3	3	3.00	2.25	0	62.5

FASTEST TO 2000 T20I RUNS (BALLS FACED) AMONG FULL MEMBER NATIONS

Player	Balls
Suryakumar Yadav (Ind)	1,164
Aaron Finch (Aus)	1,283
Glenn Maxwell (Aus)	1,304
Hardik Pandya (Ind)	1,390
Tim Seifert (NZ)	1,395

* Stats updated till February 10, 2026

Sankar Narayanan E.H.

The setting: M.A. Chidambaram Stadium. The protagonist: Tim Seifert.

Two chases, two wins, and two Player-of-the-Match awards – the common thread in New Zealand's victories over Afghanistan and the UAE in Chennai has been its daredevil wicketkeeper-opener's ballistic brilliance.

True to his nickname 'Bam Bam', the 31-year-old muscled his way through the Afghan and Emirati bowlers in his first two outings of the ongoing T20 World Cup.

While his 42-ball 65 against Rashid Khan's men came when his side was under the pump (following Mujeeb Ur Rahman's double-wicket second over), his unbeaten 42-ball 89 against the Middle Eastern nation made a 174-run chase as straightforward and spotless as one could hope for: a 10-wicket victory with 28 balls to spare.

The icing on the cake was the 175-run unbroken opening partnership between him and his partner in crime, Finn Allen, which stands as the highest for any wicket in T20 World Cup history.

"No. I didn't know that. I'm not much of a stats guy, but we'll take it," Seifert said after picking up his second PoM award in a row.

Impressive numbers

Seifert may not be interested in checking the record books, but he sure has racked up some impressive numbers.

Not only did he go past the 2,000-run mark in T20Is during the innings against Afghanistan, but he also became the fifth fastest among full member nations to breach the landmark (1,395 deliveries).

With 816 runs at an average of 51 (20 innings), Seifert is also among the top-five run-getters in T20Is since 2025, a list helmed by India's Abhishek Sharma (1,041 runs in 27 innings).

The path to consistency has not been straightforward for the Kiwi batter. Since making his T20I debut in 2018, Seifert has had to reinvent his game according to the ever-changing team dynamics.

Seifert, who grew up watching and being in awe of Brendon McCullum, showed exactly what he was capable of when he finally got his chance to open after shuttling up and down the order in his first eight T20Is. His 43-ball 84 on February 6, 2019, not only set up the Black Caps' 80-run win over India, but also made the world take notice of the brute force and cheekiness in his batting arsenal.

"Kind of funny when I got told that I'll be opening the innings. I YouTubed Brendon McCullum and watched some of his innings," Seifert said after claiming his first PoM trophy in T20Is.

"I'd be lying if I said Baz wasn't one of my heroes growing up. Obviously you try to be yourself out there, but I definitely have looked at Baz throughout my childhood," Seifert added in the press conference that followed.

The hiatus

The shortest format's unforgiving nature didn't spare Seifert either. A stacked New Zealand top-order, including Martin Guptill, Colin Munro and Kane Williamson meant that Seifert had to bide his time for a consistent run as an opener. This led to a dip in returns, culminating in a 2021 T20 World Cup where he felt more like a spectator than a central figure. He eventually lost his place in the set-up altogether.

After the third match against India in Eden Gardens on November 21, 2021, Seifert did not play a T20I until April 2, 2023. The long and arduous hiatus, though, did not deter his determination. He was virtually living out of a suitcase, hopping from one T20 league to the other and slowly refining his batsmanship to the required standards.

Software update

A glance at his T20I numbers before and after his comeback showed Seifert 2.0 came with a rather successful software update.

While his average hovered below 24 in his first 40 T20Is, the number jumped to just shy of 39 in his next 43 games. The runs scored for every six balls he faced, too, saw a drastic increase (7.78 to 9.39), underlining the fact that he did not trade explosiveness for consistency.

Even after becoming a mainstay in the Kiwi line-up, Seifert does not miss a chance to allude to his globetrotting adventures, where he learnt the invaluable art of judging a pitch.

"Cricket is a game that you play on every wicket. No matter what tournament you're playing in, no matter what ground you're in, the wicket's going to be

different," Seifert said in the mixed zone, after his whirlwind knock against Afghanistan on Sunday.

"And as a batter, you've got to adapt and decide pretty quickly how you're going to play on that wicket. That's one of the skill sets that I've taken from franchise cricket, which is just adapting to different conditions and also playing some world-class bowlers," he said.

It also helped his cause that he was demoted down the order only six times in the 41 innings following his return. And Seifert is thankful for the opportunity, while remaining pragmatically open to shifting roles.

"Yeah, when I started my career, I batted down at middle-order as a 'keeper-batter. Then, over the last few years, I've been at the top consistently, which is great," Seifert said after his first match-winning knock in the 2026 showpiece. "I've still got the ability to play in the middle-order if any team needs. But, yeah, batting at the top allows me to just go out there and put pressure on the bowlers. And I think that's the main thing in these tournaments, where you can get the team off to a good start in the PowerPlay," he said.

Seifert=du Plessis

Working with the likes of McCullum, Ricky Ponting, Phil Simmons, and Kieron Pollard across various global leagues didn't just rebuild his confidence, it gave him a world-class laboratory to fine-tune his mechanics.

After a lot of trial and error, he landed on a rather unique, yet productive, batting stance. To a keen observer, it was evident that Seifert adopted a new stance that eerily mirrors South Africa veteran Faf du Plessis.

The new set-up – characterised by a high sledge-hammer bat-lift and an open shoulder – agrees well with Seifert's muscular forearms, allowing the basher in him to take over without inhibitions. This tweak reduced his dependency on high-risk 360-degree innovations while also increasing his proficiency in hitting through the line.

New Zealand batting coach Luke Ronchi, too, gave his stamp of approval for the tactical shift, adding that the set-up has opened up several avenues for Seifert against the slower bowlers.

"That's something he decided he wanted to do because it just felt natural. It's quite a big movement, and obviously not many people have that sort of style. But again it makes him clear and calm in how he wants to do it," Ronchi said ahead of the Kiwis' match against the UAE.

The stars align

The stars seem to be aligning for the Kiwi batter. After a dismal 2021 World Cup and heartbreaking absences in 2022 and 2024 – the third despite maintaining prolific numbers – the 2026 extravaganza has seen Seifert become the first to breach the 150-run mark this tournament (154 runs in two outings).

That these heroics occurred in Chennai is a script no writer could have penned better. It was in this coastal city, during the 2021 IPL, that Seifert faced his toughest challenge: testing positive for COVID-19 and being left behind as the only overseas player in isolation.

"The world stops a little bit," a visibly emotional Seifert had said after his two-week quarantine in Chennai.

Five years later, the world stopped again – not in sympathy, but in awe of his 'Bam Bam' brilliance at Chepauk.

THE GIST

- Not only did he go past the 2,000-run mark in T20Is during the innings against Afghanistan, but he also became the fifth fastest among full member nations to breach the landmark (1,395 deliveries)
- With 816 runs at an average of 51 (20 innings), Seifert is also among the top-five run-getters in T20Is since 2025, a list helmed by India's Abhishek Sharma (1,041 runs in 27 innings)
- To a keen observer, it was evident that Seifert adopted a new stance that eerily mirrors South Africa veteran du Plessis. The new set-up — characterised by a high sledge-hammer bat-lift and an open shoulder — agrees well with Seifert's muscular forearms, allowing the basher in him to take over without inhibitions

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & An ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The APTRANSCO invites bids online for **1)** Spec.No.PMM12-e-11/2026: Supply of Lot-1: 33kV feeder CTs-252Nos, **Lot-2:** 33kV Metering CTs-192Nos.2) Spec.No.PMM12-e-12/2026: Supply of 33kV Metering PTs-207Nos. **Date & Time of availability of above tenders:13.02.2026 at 5:00PM. Website: www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in. Contact No.CE/Transmission: 0866-2429230.**

R.O. GMCC/APTRANSCO/45/26 Sd/- Chief Engineer, Transmission, APTRANSCO

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Shanthinagar Division, P.U. Building,9th Floor, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 001.

No:EE/SN/TEND/18/2025-26 Date: 12.02.2026

Invitation for Tender (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Only through KPP Portal) website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer, (Shanthinagara), BCCC, Bengaluru, invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Greater Bengaluru Authority (BBMP) or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railway/MES or any State or Central Government Organisations for the constructions of work detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work / Category
1.	Filling up of Pot holes in Ward No.166, Shanthinagara for the year 2025-26. **(Others).** **Approximate value of work (₹ in Lakhs) : 20.00, EMD in ₹: 50,000/-.**
2.	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No.172, Agaram for the year 2025-26. **(Others).** **Approximate value of work (₹ in Lakhs) : 30.00, EMD in ₹: 75,000/-.**
3.	Filling up of Pot holes in Ward No.167, Ashoknagara for the year 2025-26. **(Others).** **Approximate value of work (₹ in Lakhs) : 20.00, EMD in ₹: 50,000/-.**
4.	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No.166, Shanthinagara for the year 2025-26 **(CAT-I)** **Approximate value of work (₹ in Lakhs) : 30.00, EMD in ₹: 25,000/-.**
5.	Filling up of Pot holes in Ward no.168, Neelasandra for the year 2025-26. **(Others).** **Approximate value of work (₹ in Lakhs) : 20.00, EMD in ₹: 50,000/-.**
6.	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No.167, Ashoknagara for the year 2025-26 **(Others).** **Approximate value of work (₹ in Lakhs) : 30.00, EMD in ₹: 75,000/-.**
7.	Filling up of Pot holes in Ward no.169, Vannarpete for the year 2025-26. **(SC).** **Approximate value of work (₹ in Lakhs) : 20.00, EMD in ₹: 25,000/-.**
8.	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No.168, Neelasandra for the year 2025-26 **(Others).** **Approximate value of work (₹ in Lakhs) : 30.00, EMD in ₹: 75,000/-.**
9.	Filling up of Pot holes in Ward No.170, Jogupalya for the year 2025-26 **(CAT-IIA).** **Approximate value of work (₹ in Lakhs) : 20.00, EMD in ₹: 25,000/-.**
10.	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No.170, Jogupalya for the year 2025-26 **(Others). (CAT-IIA).** **Approximate value of work (₹ in Lakhs) : 30.00, EMD in ₹: 30,000/-.**
11.	Filling up of Pot holes in Ward No.171, Domlur for the year 2025-26 **(ST).** **Approximate value of work (₹ in Lakhs) : 20.00, EMD in ₹: 25,000/-.**
12.	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No.171, Domlur for the year 2025-26 **(Others).** **Approximate value of work (₹ in Lakhs) : 30.00, EMD in ₹: 75,000/-.**
13.	Filling up of Pot holes in Ward No.172, Agaram for the year 2025-26 **(SC).** **Approximate value of work (₹ in Lakhs) : 20.00, EMD in ₹: 25,000/-.**
14.	Annual Maintenance of Ward and Desilting of Drains in Ward No.169, Vannarpete for the year 2025-26 **(Others).** **Approximate value of work (₹ in Lakhs) : 30.00, EMD in ₹: 75,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Availability of RFP documents **16.02.2026 onwards. (2)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **23.02.2026 at 3:30 p.m. (3)** Last date for submission of tender documents is on **01.03.2026 upto 4:00 p.m. (4)** Technical Bids will be opened on **02.03.2026 at 4:30 p.m.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shanthinagar Division, BCCC.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RAYAGADA (R&B) CIRCLE, RAYAGADA
e-Procurement Notice e-mail ID - sepwd_rgda@yahoo.com Phone/Fax No-06856-223049

Bid Identification No. C.C.E (RANDB) RGDA-14/2025-26 (Online) Dt. 03.02.2026
No.209 Date. 03.02.2026 INVITATION FOR BIDS

1.	The **Chief Construction Engineer, Rayagada (R&B) Circle, Rayagada** on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites **percentage rate** bids in **double cover mode** to be received in **online mode** only for the construction of works as detailed in the table below		
2.	Nature of work	:	**Building works**
3.	No. of works	:	**07 (Seven) Nos. of work**
4.	Estimated Cost (Approximately)	:	**Rs.313.07 Lakh, Rs.153.56 lakhs, Rs.231.74 Lakhs, Rs.345.79 Lakhs, Rs.312.13 lakhs, Rs.192.76 Lakhs and Rs.192.00 Lakhs.**
5.	Bid Cost (Online)	:	**Rs. 10,000/-**
6.	**EMD/Bid Security Amount (Online)**	:	**One Percentage of the Estimated Cost.**
7.	Class of Contractor	:	**A Class only as per Financial Eligibility.**
8.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	**11.00 Hours of Dt.16.02.2026 to 17.00 Hours of Dt.02.03.2026**
9.	Date of opening of Bid	:	**11.00 Hrs of Dt.05.03.2026.**
10.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tendersorissa.gov.in**. Any Addendum/Corrigendum/cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website. The authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.		

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Rayagada (R&B) Circle, Rayagada

34001/20/2526 OIPR-34001/34154/1/25-26/0020

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 & 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560009. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-DPR-05/01690/2025-26 Date: 12.02.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB invites tender from reputed consultants/firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for project mentioned below:-

Name of the work: Providing Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Economic Analysis, Surveying, Layout Plan Design and Feasibility Report for External Water Supply Scheme to Kuduthini, Mundaragi, Sanjeevarayanakote, Ananthapura & future Industrial Area in Ballari District.

- Last Date for submission of Bids: **04.03.2026** upto **4:00** pm.

Applicants May download bidding documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-2, KIADB, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5621/CCL/2025-26

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 052

No:DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/17/2025-26 Date: 12.02.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT)
(Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Deputy General Manager-1, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited on behalf of the Managing Director, BSWML, Bengaluru invites bids from eligible bidders for the works mention in the below table.

Sl No.	Package Name	Approx. Amount Put to Bid (Rs.in Crores)	EMD Amount (in Rs)	Stipulated Completion Period (including Monsoon Period)
1	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Material Recovery Facility having sorting, shredding, baling & storage system for handling a minimum 200 TPD of Dry Waste at **Doddabidarakallu** Plant under BBMP jurisdiction. **(Package -P1)** on own design build & transfer basis. (DBT) Call-3	28.39 (Including GST)	28,39,000/-	12 Months
2	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Material Recovery Facility having sorting, shredding, baling & storage system for handling a minimum 200 TPD of Dry Waste at **Subbarayanapalya** Plant under BBMP jurisdiction. **(Package -P2)** on own design build & transfer basis. (DBT) Call-3	20.69 (Including GST)	20,69,000/-	12 Months
3	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Material Recovery Facility having sorting shredding, baling & storage system for handling a minimum 826 TPD of Dry Waste at **Tarahunase** under BBMP jurisdiction **(Package -P3)** on own design build & transfer basis. (DBT) Call-3	76.44 (Including GST)	76,44,000/-	12 Months

CALENDER OF EVENTS: 1) Last date to upload pre-bid queries in kpp portal: 21.02.2026 before 4:00 pm. 2) Tender Pre Bid meeting: 23.02.2026 at 3:00 pm at above mentioned office. 3) Last Date of Receipt of Tender 02.03.2026 upto 4:00 pm. 4) Opening of Technical Bid: 03.03.2026 at 4:30 pm.

More details can be downloaded from website - http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5623/CCL/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that our client proposes to enter into a joint development agreement to develop land approximately measuring 100 acres and purchase an extent of land approximately measuring 60 acres, totally measuring about 154 acres 26 guntas comprised in various survey numbers located at Veerlagollahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapur District and lands measuring about 5 acres 3 guntas comprised in two survey numbers located at Alakapura Village, Thondabhavi Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapur District hereinafter collectively referred to as **'Schedule Property'**, from its present owner NSL Sugars (Tungabhadra) Limited. The details of the Schedule Property are morefully set out in the **Schedule** hereinbelow

Any person/s having objection/s to the above mentioned transaction or any person/s claiming to have any manner of right, title, interest, claim or demand in relation to owner and/or the Schedule Property or any part thereof, may lodge his/her/their statement/s, objection/s and/or claim/s in writing, along with documentary evidence in support thereof, with the undersigned, **within 21 (twenty-one) days** from the date of publication of this notice. In the absence of any genuine and/or rightful objections and/or claims, our client will proceed to finalize and conclude the proposed transaction of purchase of the Schedule Property by way of an outright sale from the present owners, as if no claim/s or objection/s exist and that they have been consciously waived and abandoned by such person/s forever.

SCHEDULE

All that lands measuring about **154 acres 26 guntas** comprised in the following survey numbers all located at **Veerlagollahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapur District** and bounded as follows:

Sl. No	Sy. No	Extent (excluding kharab)		Kharab		Boundaries			
		Acre	Guntas	Acre	Guntas	East	West	North	South
1	30	4	00	3	29	Government mud road	Land bearing Sy No. 31	Land bearing Sy No. 34/3	Land bearing Sy No.31and government mud road
2	31	12	27	2	07	Land bearing Sy No.30 and government mud road	Land bearing Survey Nos. 32 and 33	Land bearing Sy No. 30	Land bearing Sy No. 61
3	32	11	22	-	-	Land bearing Sy No. 31	Land bearing Sy No. 51	Land bearing Sy No. 33	Land bearing Sy No. 60
4	33	13	00	0	16	Land bearing Sy No. 31	Land bearing Sy No. 50	Land bearing Survey Nos. 34/1 and 34/2	Land bearing Sy No. 32
5	48	44	05	-	-	Land bearing Survey Nos. 35 and 34/1	Land bearing Survey Nos. 49, 47 and 55	Land bearing Survey Nos. 45 and 37	Land bearing Sy No. 34/1
6	49	12	04	-	-	Land bearing Sy No. 48	Land bearing Sy No. 53	Land bearing Sy No. 55	Land bearing Sy No. 50
7	50	13	13	-	-	Land bearing Survey Nos. 48 and 33	Land bearing Sy No. 53	Land bearing Sy No. 49	Land bearing Sy No. 51
8	51	20	32	-	-	Land bearing Sy No. 32	Land bearing Sy No. 52	Land bearing Sy No. 50	Land bearing Sy No. 59
9	52	12	36	-	-	Land bearing Sy No. 51	State Highway 68	Land bearing Sy No. 53	Land bearing Sy No. 59
10	53/1	0	21	-	-	Land bearing Sy No. 49	State Highway 68	Land bearing Sy No. 54	Land bearing Sy No. 52
11	54	0	13	-	-	Land bearing Sy No. 49	Land bearing Sy No. 53	Remaining part of land bearing Sy No. 54 in the name of Gouri Distillery	Land bearing Sy No. 50
12	55	1	22	-	-	Land bearing Sy No. 48	Remaining part of land bearing Sy No. 55 in the name of Gouri Distillery	Land bearing Sy No. 47	Land bearing Sy No. 49
13	53n/2	3	31	-	-	State Highway 68	Land bearing Sy No. 49	Remaining part of land bearing Sy No. 53n/2	Land bearing Sy No.72 (old 53/2)
14	Old 53 & New 72	4	00	-	-	State Highway 68	Land bearing Sy No. 49	Land bearing Sy No. 53/1	Land bearing Sy Nos. 52 and 50
TOTAL		154	26	6	12				

All that lands measuring about **5 acres 3 guntas** comprised in the following survey numbers all located at **Alakapura Village, Thondabhavi Hobli, Gowribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapur District** and bounded as follows:

Sl. No	Sy. No	Extent (excluding kharab)		Kharab		Boundaries			
		Acre	Guntas	Acre	Guntas	East	West	North	South
1	59	4	23	-	-	Remaining part of land bearing Sy No. 59	Land bearing Sy No. 60	Land bearing Sy No. 51	Remaining part of land bearing Sy No. 59
2	67	0	20	-	-	Remaining part of land bearing Sy No. 67	Lands of Talavari Kadiranna	Pennar River	Remaining part of land bearing Sy No. 67
TOTAL			26	2	40				

Date:13.02.2026
Place: Bengaluru

For **M/s Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas**
Sd/- **Harsha Sudhindra, Partner**
Level 3, Prestige Falcon Towers, 19, Brunton Road, Off M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 025.

MYSURU CITY CORPORATION, MYSURU
Office of the Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, VVWW Campus, K.R.S. Main Road, Yadavagiri, Mysuru- 570 020.

TN No: MCC/EE-ELE/TN-18/2025-26 **Date:** 08.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION -18
(Through Karnataka Public-Procurement Portal Only)

Tenders are invited through Karnataka Public-Procurement Portal for the works under General Fund: 2025-26 grant as required from Executive Engineer (Electrical) of the Mysuru City Corporation.

Details are as follows:

Sl. No.	Description	Total Works	Tender Amount (INR)	Date of Publishing on KPP-Portal	Last Date for Submission of Bids	Technical & Financial Bid opening Date
1	Goods Tender Works	07	275.60	08.02.2026	24.02.2026	25.02.2026
2	Tender Works (KW-1)	01	8.15	09.02.2026	18.02.2026	19.02.2026

Note: Any further Changes/notifications will be published only through Karnataka Public-Procurment portal only and will not release any paper notification.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Electrical)
Mysuru City Corporation, Mysuru

DIPR/MYS/1656/SA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, M.I. & G.W.D. DIVISION, KALABURAGI.
PHONE : 08472 -220196, E-mail : midnglb@rediffmail.com / midnglb1@gmail.com

IFT No. EE/MI &GWD D/KAL/PB-2/2025-26/4924 DATED : 12-02-2026

-: SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT KW-4) :-

1) Detail of Work: THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, M.I. & G.W.D. DIVISION, KALABURAGI INVITES TENDER FROM THE ELIGIBLE TENDERERS FOR THE WORK UNDER 4702 S.C.P. FOR THE YEAR 2025-26, 2) Amount of Estimate : **Max. Rs. 141,22,725.67 Min. Rs. 40,33,695.99**, 3) Eligibility of Contractor: CLASS-III & ABOVE, 4) Details of Tender Application Amount and EMD Amount: Tender Fee As Per KPP Portal E.M.D. Max. Rs. 2,11,900.00 Min. Rs. 40,400.00, 5) Pre-Bid Meeting Date & Time: **23-02-2026 Upto 11.00 Hours,** 6) Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications: **24-02-2026 Upto 11.00 Hours,** 7) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Tenders: **25-02-2026 Up to 17.30 Hours,** 8) Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **26-02-2026 Up to 17.30 Hours**, 9) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid : **27-02-2026 Up to 11.00 Hours**, 10) Addl. information: Executive Engineer, M.I. & G.W.D. Division, Kalaburagi, 11) Address of E-Portal: **(https:// kppp.Karnataka.gov.in)**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1078/KSMC&A/2025-26

Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Chikkamagaluru District, Chikkamagaluru.
District Urban Development Cell, Chikkamagaluru

E-Mail:- ka.chikkamagaluru.dudc@gmail.com Tel: 08262-239010

1115470: File No.-DUDCCK-ENGGOMISC/4/2026-ENG Date: 09.02.2026

E-Procurement Re-Tender Notice

Conditional tenders are invited from eligible contractors registered with the Public Works Department through the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) to carry out the following works under the Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Scheme 2025-26. Interested contractors may submit their tenders subject to the conditions.

Sl. No	Indent No.	Approx. Amount (Rs. in lakhs)	Reservation	E.M.D. Amount (in Rs.)
1	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53161/CALL-2	100.00	SC	42,375.00
2	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53163/CALL-2	100.00	Category-2A	42,350.00

Tender Form Price: As per e-Procurement. Duration: 06 months (excluding rainy season) **1.** Last date for submission of tender on e-Procurement Portal: 25.02.2026 up to 17.00 hrs. **2.** Date of opening of technical bid: 27.02.2026 at 17.30 hrs. **3.** Date of opening of financial bid: 01.03.2026 at 11.00 hrs.

Further details are available during the working hours of this office and also at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in . Any changes, if any, due to any reason will be published only on the e-portal and will not be published in the newspapers, and the contractors can see the same on the KPPP portal.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, District Urban Development Cell, Chikkamagaluru.

DIPR/ckm/ksmca/25-26/160/1820

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-80/2066/2025-26 Date: 12.02.2026

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the Package work as per the schedule given below:

Work Details Under Package : a) Upgradation of Industrial Area of 13m wide asphalt road including construction of RCC Side drains of Somanahalli Industrial Area Mandya Taluk, Mandya District & **b)** Upgradation of Industrial Area of 18m & 24m wide asphalt roads including construction of RCC Side Drains of Gejjalagere Industrial Area, Mandya Taluk, Mandya District.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **27.02.2026** upto **4.00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5626/Zen/2025-26

K-tech
STARTUP KARNATAKA

HIRING OF MANPOWER RESOURCES

The Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), under the Department of Electronics, IT & Bt, Government of Karnataka, serves as the nodal agency for implementing the Department Policies and spearheading innovation and technology initiatives in the State. KITS invites applications from qualified and eligible candidates for the following position:

Designation : Manager – IT **No of Posts:** 01.

Remuneration (Consolidated) : Rs.80,000/- **Age Limit:** Less than 40 Years

Job Profile: To assist Start-up Cell in various schemes under Start-up Policy such as ELEVATE and other funding schemes and co-ordinating with K- tech Partners and also any other tasks in Start-up cell under the guidance and supervision of General Manager.

Minimum Qualification & Experience: Full-time MBA/PGDBM/PGDBA (2 years duration). Minimum 5 years of professional work experience in funding programs with good analytical skills and strong hold on Data handling and Management and knowledge in Start-up ecosystem. Preparing reports, excellent communication skills, strong organizational abilities, problem-solving aptitude. Knowledge about Funding, Documentation, Excellent communication skills (Both Kannada and English).

Scan For Apply

The post is contractual and for a maximum period of 11 months. The details are available at **https://eitbt.karnataka.gov.in/217/recruitment/en.** The eligible candidates should apply in the provided link **https://forms.gle/JEZETGhzTSAMASQf6** on or before **27/02/2026 by 5.00 pm.** Interview will be conducted for shortlisted candidates only. The decision of Selection Committee will be final and binding.

Sd/-
Managing Director

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
BKG Sapphire # 59 Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru – 560020
Phone: 080-22231007. E-mail: itbt.kitshr@gmail.com

DIPR/CP/5607/AKAR/2025-26

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ▪ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ▪ 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ▪ 2335700

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

KERALA SAMAJAM IAS ACADEMY
BENGALURU
(Social Initiative of Kerala Samajam Bangalore, Since 2011)

IAS 2027
18 MONTHS COMPREHENSIVE GUIDANCE
(Initial 2 months of free guidance for Aptitude and Capacity Building)
Hybrid (Offline+ Live Online) sessions by Civil Servants and Subject experts
OPEN TO ALL / Starts on 22nd Feb
WhatsApp- 8431414491 165 Selections till date

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Shailaja W/O, Manoj Kashyap R/o No. 426, 5th G Block,Near Fire Station, Anjanapura Bda Layout, Bengaluru, 560062 have changed my name to Shailaja V for all purposes.

I, ROOP Singh Chavan, S/o Umaji Chavan, R/at No.15, 5th Main Road, Srikanteshwara Nagar, Bangalore-560096 have changed my name from Roop Singh to Roop Singh Chavan vide affidavit dated 11-02-2026 sworn before Notary K.V. Mani, B'luru

I, GAUTHAM Kumar Chavan, S/o Roop Singh Chavan, R/at No.15, 5th Main Road, Srikanteshwara Nagar, Bengaluru-560096, have changed my name from Goutham Kumar Chavan to Gautham Kumar Chavan vide affidavit dated 11-02-2026 sworn before Notary K.V. Mani, Bengaluru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUDHA Kadaba Narasimha Iyengar, W/o Late Bhagavan, R/at No.85/205, 4th Main, Ojus Apartments, Malleshwaram, Bangalore North-560003, have changed my name from Sudha to Sudha Kadaba Narasimha Iyengar vide affidavit dated 09-01-2025 sworn before Notary K.S.Giridhar, Bengaluru.

RENTAL

PREMISES FOR Rent:- A well-equipped studio available for rent, ideal for: Corporate meetings, Spiritual workshops, Art classes, Lectures and group sessions Designed for comfort and functionality. View our studio on Google My Business: (Fateh Studio Centre) For enquiries, Contact: Sudhi at-7760787881

Bengaluru rose exports shrink by more than 50% in five years

The export of roses has become unviable for most growers as the government introduced 18% GST on freight on the sector

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Bengaluru's rose exports to cater to the Valentine's Day demand have shrunk by more than 50% in five years.

The rose exports fell from five to six million stems five years ago to 10 to 15 lakhs in the current season, apex body representatives and farmers told *The Hindu*.

The export of roses became unviable for most growers as the government introduced 18% GST on freight on the sector.

More so, it was already reeling under huge cost pressure, especially after the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) in 2021 withdrew transport subsidy scheme that used to offset high freight costs for certain agriculture, horticulture and floriculture produce, including roses, said stakeholders.

Bouquets getting ready at Sri Hari flower stall near Shivanand circle, ahead of Valentine's Day celebrations, in Bengaluru on Thursday; (right) A variety of roses kept ready for auction in Bengaluru.
K. MURALI KUMAR AND SUDHAKARA JAIN

> With 18% GST and without support from APEDA, the export cost has gone up substantially to the extent of making global markets unreachable for many farmers in India
>
> **T.M. ARAVIND**
> President of the South India Floriculture Association

GST and no support

"With 18% GST and without support from the APEDA, the export cost has gone up substantially to the extent of making global markets unreachable for many farmers in India. The landing cost of our roses in global markets are much higher than the prices of roses from Ethiopia or Kenya," said T.M. Aravind, president of the South India Floriculture Association (SIFA). Also, Indian roses are witnessing rough weather in global markets, including Japan, Singapore, Australia, Middle East, Canada, etc., even though the country, especially southern States, produce high quality roses with a shelf life of 15 days. In contrast, roses from other countries come with a shelf life of only a week to 10 days, added Mr. Aravind.

"The industry is actually shrinking, without government's support. We used to have up to 5,000 active rose growers contributing to both domestic and export markets. Now, the number of exporters have reduced to 150 or 200 as export costs soared," he observed. According to the SIFA, Karnataka now produces 10 to 15 lakh stems of roses, including Taj Mahal or Bangalore Red, which commands a price of ₹30 to ₹35 per stem, and Yellow Gold Strike at ₹20 and Dark Purple at ₹25 a stem, a day, of which some 10% to 15% go to exports market during the Valentine's Day season. About 30% to 35% of the rose production was exported until the pandemic, indicating a huge decline in exports.

Domestic market rises

However, the domestic market for roses is on a steady rise. The International Flower Auction Bangalore (IFAB), situated at Hebbal, on Friday auctioned 1 million stems of roses, mostly meant for the domestic markets.

M. Vishwanath, Managing Director of IFAB, told *The Hindu*, "This is the first time ever that we hit the one million mark in auction in one day. Our last season peak was 9.20 lakh stems. The average price realisation per stem has also gone up from ₹10 to ₹15 to up to ₹20."

According to Mr. Vishwanath, there is a huge demand for roses in the domestic market and this upturn started from February 2, became solid on February 7, the World Rose Day, and peaked later for the upcoming Valentine's Day, weddings and other events in the domestic market.

"These days people increasingly want to celebrate milestones. They are ready to spend, and roses are an integral part of these celebrations," Mr. Vishwanath added.

Yashoda Karuturi, a 25-year-old CEO, Hoovu Fresh, said that the domestic market for roses has evolved a lot in the last couple of years. She has already sold two lakh stems of roses in the local market to cater to the Valentine's Day demand and was expecting to sell over 5 lakh stems of roses by February 14. "We are selling one lakh stems of roses per day this season in the domestic market with direct sales and through quick commerce. I am very optimistic about the domestic industry, given the growing demand and a transparent platform created by the IFAB," Ms. Karuturi added.

Supreme Court declines to intervene in HC's refusal to grant MLA advance bail

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to intervene in a Karnataka High Court decision refusing to grant anticipatory bail to BJP MLA B.A. Basavaraj (Byrathi Basavaraj) in the July 2025 murder of Shivaprakash alias 'Bikla' Shiva, a realtor-cum-rowdy-sheeter, while highlighting the close nexus between land-grabbers and politicians.

"Land-grabbers have political protection. It is true the public perception is that land-grabbers have one or the other protection," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant remarked.

The Bench, also comprising Justice Joymalya Bagchi, gave the MLA liberty to apply for regular bail after surrendering in the case.

Crime charges

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for Mr. Basavaraj, said his client was not an MLA of the ruling party but of the opposition party, and hence was slapped with organised crime charges also.

Senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, for the Karnataka government, submitted that the apex court order allowing Mr. Basavaraj liberty to seek regular bail should not work against the State's right to seek his police custody and interrogation.

MLA denies charges

Mr. Rohatgi began his arguments completely denying the charges against his client. "I am not involved in the property dispute. The property is not even within my constituency. I am a four-time MLA," he submitted on behalf of the MLA.

The CJI, however, said there was an element of conspiracy alleged against the MLA.

"Not a scrap of material to suggest that I had anything to do with the property. The High Court had earlier granted me interim protection," Mr. Rohatgi submitted.

The Bench pointed out that the deceased was killed in the presence of his mother. However, Mr. Rohatgi said she had never said she had seen the MLA at the spot. "Your standard is not that you will go there with a weapon. You have many service-providers," Chief Justice Kant reacted.

Quashing of KCOCA

In August 2025, the High Court had given Mr. Basavaraj interim protection asking the police 'not to take coercive step against him'.

However, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which took over probe from the Bengaluru police, invoked provisions of the Karnataka Control of Organised Crimes Act (KCOCA), 2000, against all the accused persons, including the BJP MLA, during pendency of his petition against the FIR. This led him to file another petition before the High Court challenging invocation of KCOCA.

On December 19, 2025, the High Court quashed invocation of KCOCA against the MLA and other accused.

However, on December 23, 2025, the special court of sessions for criminal cases against present and former MPs and MLAs rejected Mr. Basavaraj's plea for anticipatory bail stating that the investigation against him and another accused was not complete even though the CID had filed a charge sheet against the remaining 18 accused persons.

From Page One

A video grab of BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj being taken into custody.

Byrathi Basavaraj held

Even Home Minister G. Parameshwara had advised him to surrender. Mr. Basavaraj had then approached the Supreme Court seeking bail, which was rejected. CID officials were at the airport as he arrived there from Ahemedabad on Wednesday, and arrested Mr. Basavaraj and took him to the CID headquarters.

He will be taken for medical examination as part of the procedure and produced before the magistrate seeking police custody for further investigation. The BJP MLA was named as accused number 5 in 'Bikla' Shiva murder case. V.G. Shivaprakash alias Bikla Shiva (44), a history-sheeter with more than 12 criminal cases against him, was brutally hacked to death by a gang in Bharathi Nagar on the night of July 15, 2025, allegedly over a business rivalry in the real estate sector.

According to police, Shiva who had a reputation for staking claims over disputed properties and was often described as a real estate conman rather than a conventional gangster was called out of his residence by the accused on the pretext of holding talks.

Once he stepped onto the busy street outside his house, the assailants allegedly attacked him with lethal weapons in full public view. Quoting the family of the deceased and the sources, the murder appears to have stemmed from ongoing disputes linked to real estate dealings, the police said.

The police First Information Report has named Jagadish Padmanabha alias Jaga, 42, described as a close associate of BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj, as Accused (A1). Three of his alleged henchmen have been listed as A2, A3, and A4. Mr Basavaraj has been named as Accused No. 5 (A5) in the case.

RRMCH signs strategic MoU with TIGS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

RajaRajeswari Medical College and Hospital (RRMCH) on Thursday signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding with Tata Institute for Genetics and Society (TIGS) to strengthen collaborative research and academic innovation. The MoU was formalised in the presence of Rakesh Mishra, director, TIGS, and Sathyamurthy, dean, RRMCH.

It will focus on joint research in genetics, molecular biology and translational medicine, and faculty development, technical exchange and advanced training programmes.

Three police personnel suspended for assaulting airport canteen staff

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police Commissioner on Thursday suspended three police personnel for beating up the airport canteen staff for demanding token for the coffee they ordered on Wednesday.

The incident reportedly occurred around 12.30 a.m., when three police personnel attached to the KIA Police Station, identified as Gangaraju, Belappa, and Kumar allegedly visited the hostel area near the canteen and asked for coffee.

The complainant stated that due to language difficulties, one of the staff members informed them in Hindi that a coffee token needed to be purchased before serving. This reportedly angered one of the police personnel, who allegedly questioned why only one token was being asked for and began verbally abusing the staff.

The situation escalated when the accused personnel allegedly assaulted a canteen worker, slapping and punching him on the face and shoulders. The complaint further stated that when other staff members, identified as Rajesh and Dilip, intervened to rescue their colleague, they too were allegedly assaulted and threatened.

Ajit Kumar, a canteen manager at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) lodged a complaint alleging assault and misconduct by three police personnel in the early hours of February 11. Based on this, an FIR was registered against Gangaraju, Balappa, and Kumar, under Sections 126(2) (wrongful restraint), 115(2) (rash and negligent act endangering human life), 351(2) (criminal intimidation), and 352 (intentional insult meant to provoke) of BNS. Hours after the FIR, the trio was suspended.

It is also alleged that the police personnel attempted to forcibly close the hotel gate and created a disturbance inside the hotel premises, causing damage to the business and instilling fear among customers present at the time.

Financial dispute behind techie stabbing parents, say police

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 33-year-old software engineer stabbed his father, a retired Navy Captain, and his mother, a dentist, to death following a financial dispute in Bengaluru, according to police. He has been remanded in judicial custody.

The police said that the accused, identified as Rohan Chandra Bhat, was taken into custody.

The victims, Naveen Chandra Bhat, 60, and his wife, Shyamala, 55, sustained severe injuries. They were rushed to hospital but were declared brought dead. The incident occurred at Adarsha Vista villa community in Vignan Nagar on Wednesday.

Probe revealed that Rohan had recently returned from the U.S. and was living separately from his parents due to strained relations.

He visited his parents on Tuesday night and an argument broke out over his alleged demand for financial assistance to start a new business venture. The police suspect the argument escalated on Wednesday morning, during which Rohan allegedly attacked his parents with a knife.

Teacher post aspirants oppose move to give more stress to competitive exams over score in training courses

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government, which has amended the teacher recruitment rules, has brought in a major change in the weightage of marks, giving more importance to the competitive exam score rather than the marks obtained in B.Ed. and D.Ed. courses.

As per the Karnataka Education Department Services (Department of Public Instruction) (Recruitment) (Amendment) Rules, 2026, a total weightage of 0.90 points is given to competitive examination. The Teachers Eligibility Test (TET) has reduced the weightage to pre-university (PUC), degree, B.Ed. and D.Ed. courses to 0.10 points. Aspirants for the posts have alleged this would facilitate private tuition mafia. For the recruitment of government school teachers, the selection authority prepares a merit list of eligible candidates based on the percentage of marks obtained in the competitive examination, TET, degree education and teacher's education course, using weightage, and calculating the derived percentage. If two or more candidates obtain equal (derived percentage) marks, the one who is senior in age is considered.

Difference in weightage of marks given in teachers recruitment earlier and according to the new draft rules

Exams and courses	Earlier weightage	Draft weightage
Competitive exam	0.35	0.70
TET	0.15	0.20
PUC and degree	0.25	0.8
D.Ed. and B.Ed.	0.25	0.2

Earlier, while filling the posts of Primary School Teacher (PST), teaching from classes 1 to 5, and Graduate Primary Teacher (GPT), teaching from classes 6 to 8, the merit list was prepared by giving 0.35 weightage to the marks obtained in the competitive examination, 0.15 weightage to the marks obtained in the TET examination, 0.25 obtained in the degree or PUC, and 0.25 weightage obtained in teacher's education courses.

Also, for candidates with a four-year teacher education degree, 0.35 weightage was given to the marks obtained in the competitive examination, 0.15 weightage to marks obtained in the TET, and 0.50 weightage was given to the marks obtained in the four-year B.L.Ed., BA/B.Sc ED degree and other courses.

Amendment to rules

The State Government has amended the Karnataka Education Department Services (Department of Public Instruction) (Recruitment) Rules, 1967, and introduced the draft of the Karnataka Education Department Services (Department of Public Instruction) (Recruitment) (Amendment) Rules, 2026, and issued a gazette notification on January 21, 2026.

As per the draft rules, steps have been taken to give 0.70 weightage to marks obtained in the competitive examination, 0.20 weightage to the marks obtained in the TET examination, 0.08 obtained in the degree or PUC, and only 0.02 weightage to the marks obtained in the teacher's education courses.

The draft proposes to give 0.70 weightage to the marks obtained in the competitive examination for candidates with a four-year teacher education degree, 0.20 to the marks obtained in the TET, and 0.10 weightage to the marks obtained in the four-year B.L.Ed., BA/BSc ED degree.

Draft rules opposed

The teachers post aspirants have expressed opposition to the draft notification.

Ravikumar S.N., a teachers' post aspirant, said, "Special training is given in D.Ed. and B.Ed. courses. Teaching by understanding the mindset of children is a big challenge. However, it is painful that the government has given only 0.2% weightage to these courses."

Exploitation

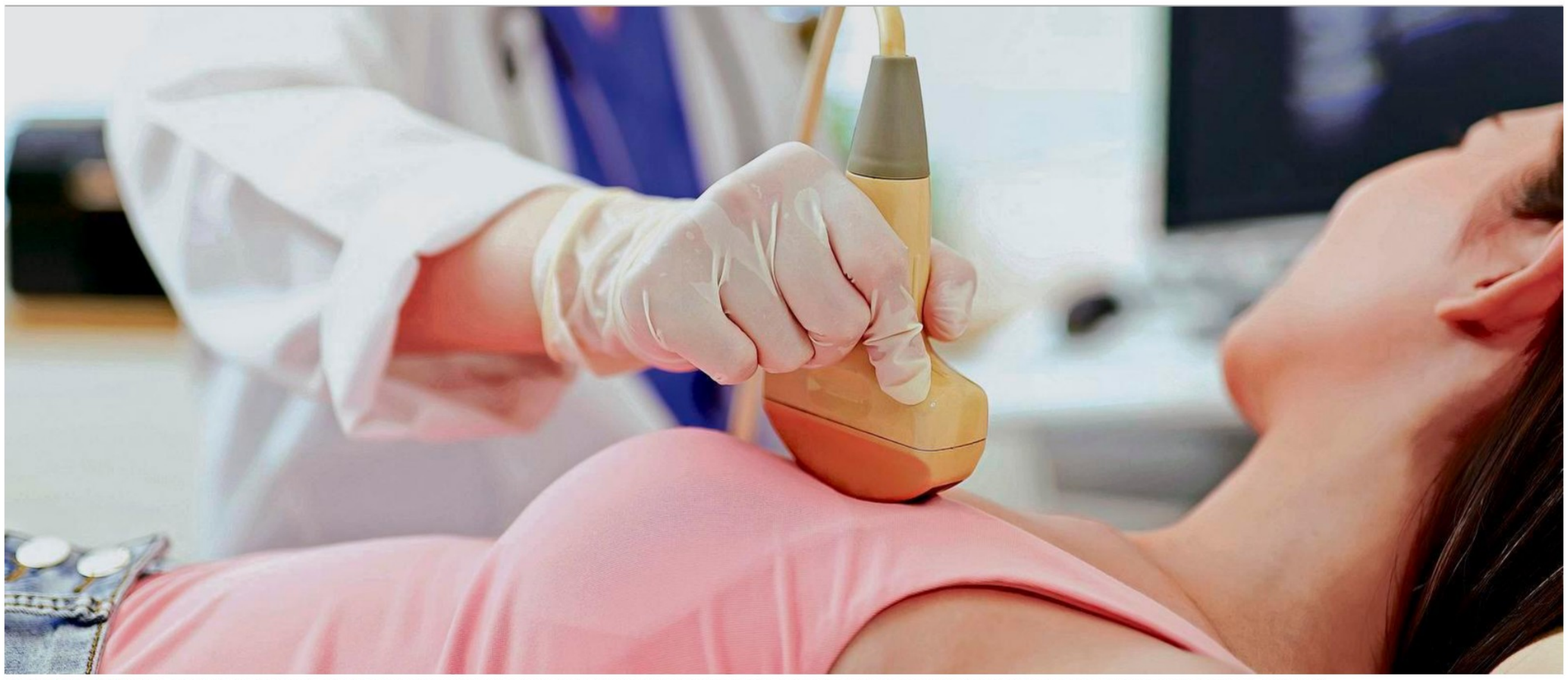
Another aspirant, Bhavya D.R., said, "Most of the candidates are from rural areas and poor families. Since the State Government has given more weightage to competitive exam scores, we need to study for competitive exams more than for PUC, degree, B.Ed or D.Ed courses. Coaching centers related to CET, NEET and other recruitments are already exploiting candidates by charging fat fees. Now that more emphasis is being placed on competitive exam scores for teacher posts, more coaching centers will come up." She alleged that the government has created an environment where it is impossible to get a job without coaching.

Text & Context and Health

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carry explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (February 13, Friday), the following articles are available:

- A case against the SHANTI Act **newsth.live/shantiact**
- The many lives of breast cancer: understanding rare subtypes **newsth.live/breastcancer**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.



Keeping an eye out: In India, where breast cancer has become the most-commonly diagnosed cancer among women in many urban registries, these rare forms are not a side-show: they are part of the everyday reality of oncology. GETTY IMAGES

The many lives of breast cancer: understanding special subtypes

Breast cancer is not just one story. There are many variations — some relatively gentle, some more aggressive — but all of them are treatable when found early and approached without fear or delay; paying attention to the quiet signals that something is different, and acting on them, is the most powerful step to take

Nisha Hariharan

Conversations about breast cancer usually bring up a single picture in one's mind: a woman feels a lump, gets it tested, is told she has breast cancer, and then follows a pathway of surgery, chemotherapy, radiation and hormone tablets. That picture is almost always based on the commonest form of the disease – what the World Health Organization now calls "invasive carcinoma of no special type" (NST), formerly known as invasive ductal carcinoma. Around 70-80% of invasive breast cancers fall into this group.

But breast cancer is not one disease. Under the microscope, it is a family of diseases that all happen to arise in the breast. Some are aggressive, some are surprisingly gentle, some have not yet turned into true cancer, and some occur in groups we rarely talk about, such as men. The subtype of breast cancer in the pathology report can change the likely behaviour of the disease and the kind of treatment it needs.

In India, where breast cancer has become the most-commonly diagnosed cancer among women in many urban registries, these rare forms are not a side-show: they are part of the everyday reality of oncology.

Two women may both hear the words 'you have breast cancer' but have very different diseases under the microscope. This is why multidisciplinary breast units are important to manage rare types safely

Once a lump is detected on examination or imaging, the next crucial step is tissue diagnosis. In modern practice, this is usually done on small samples taken with a core needle biopsy. The pathologist then studies thin slices of this tissue under the microscope and performs special stains to look for hormone receptors and other markers.

From this process comes the pathological diagnosis. It tells us: whether there is cancer at all, where it seems to have started, what pattern the cells form, and whether they express oestrogen, progesterone or HER2 receptors.

Two women may both hear the words "you have breast cancer" but have very different diseases under the microscope. At this stage, communication between the radiologist, pathologist and surgeon is indispensable. The image, the biopsy and the clinical examination must all make sense together, especially when the pattern is unusual. This is why multidisciplinary breast units – where these specialists work together – are important to manage rare types safely.

The most important non-ductal subtype to understand is invasive lobular carcinoma (ILC) – the second-most common kind of invasive breast cancer, accounting for roughly one in ten cases. It begins in the lobules – the milk-producing glands – rather than the ducts. Under the microscope, ILC cells tend to line up in single files, slipping between normal structures instead of clumping into a ball. This microscopic pattern creates some very practical differences.

Compared to usual ductal cancer, ILC: may not form a well-defined lump that is easy to feel, can make the breast feel generally fuller, heavier, or slightly firmer in one area, may cause subtle pulling in of the skin or nipple rather than a distinct nodule, and can be harder to pick up on a mammogram, because it sometimes blends in with normal tissue.

Most ILCs are hormone-receptor positive, which means they respond well to anti-oestrogen tablets given for several years after surgery. Long-term outcomes can be very good when the disease is caught early. The challenge lies in recognising the disease early, both for women, who may not feel a classic lump, and for clinicians, who must be alert to more subtle changes.

The key message is that breast awareness is not just about "feeling a lump". If one breast slowly begins to look or feel different from the other – in size, shape, firmness or texture – and those changes don't go away, it is worth getting checked, even if you cannot point to a discrete lump.

The gentler outliers

Not all special subtypes of breast cancer are very dangerous. Some are biologically gentle and, when detected early, can be controlled remarkably well with relatively modest treatment.

A group of these "good outcome cancers" includes tubular carcinoma, colloid (mucinous) carcinoma, and adenoid cystic carcinoma.

Tubular carcinoma is made up of tiny, well-formed tube-like structures. These tumours are usually small, slow-growing and respond very well to treatment. Mucinous (colloid) carcinoma produces pools of mucus in which cancer cells appear to float. This form often occurs in older women and tends to behave less aggressively than typical NST cancers. Adenoid cystic carcinomas of the breast are rare tumours with a distinctive cribriform pattern; they are often low-grade and less prone to spread to lymph nodes.

In many women with these subtypes, disease can be effectively controlled by first-line surgery and anti-oestrogen tablets, without the need for intensive chemotherapy. Despite being "rare", these cancers are immensely treatable, provided they are recognised in time and managed with due care.

At the other end are subtypes that tend to behave more aggressively. Among these are invasive micropapillary carcinoma and metaplastic carcinoma.

In micropapillary carcinoma, the cancer cells form clusters that seem to float in empty spaces under the microscope. This pattern is strongly associated with a higher risk of lymphovascular invasion and lymph node spread. Even when the primary tumour in the breast is not very large, the nodes can be significantly involved. Recognising this pattern alerts the treating team to the need for careful axillary assessment and appropriate systemic therapy.

Metaplastic carcinoma is rarer but particularly important. Here, the tumour contains areas where the cancer cells have transformed into forms that

Once a lump is detected on examination or imaging, the next crucial step is tissue diagnosis. ISTOCKPHOTO

resemble bone, cartilage or spindle-shaped connective tissue. These tumours often present as rapidly enlarging, firm lumps, are more likely to be triple-negative (lacking ER, PR and HER2), and can be less responsive to standard chemotherapy compared to ordinary NST tumours.

Outcomes for these aggressive subtypes depend heavily on stage at diagnosis and access to expertise. These tumours underscore once again how crucial accurate pathology and multidisciplinary planning are, to achieve good outcomes in breast cancer.

When the lump keeps growing

While all the tumours discussed so far are unequivocally cancers, phyllodes tumours are somewhat different. They arise from the fibrous and glandular tissue of the breast and are classified as benign, borderline, or malignant based on their microscopic features, depending on how active and abnormal the stromal component appears. They are, in other words, tumours of the breast, but not breast carcinoma in the usual sense. Under the microscope, they have a leaf-like architecture, which is where the name "phyllodes" comes from.

Clinically, a phyllodes tumour typically presents as a smooth, mobile lump, which at first glance can resemble a common fibroadenoma (a benign breast lump) and then begin to grow quickly, sometimes over just a few months.

In countries like India, where women may delay seeking care because of fear, stigma or distance, it is not unusual to encounter phyllodes tumours that have been allowed to reach very large sizes.

Unlike typical breast cancers, phyllodes tumours rarely involve the lymph nodes, so routine removal of nodes is often unnecessary. The mainstay of treatment is surgical excision with a rim of healthy tissue around the tumour, to reduce the risk of it coming back in the same area. Malignant phyllodes tumours, however, can spread through the bloodstream, most commonly to the lungs.

If you have been told you have a "fibroadenoma" or a "benign lump", but it keeps increasing in size or returns quickly after a minor operation, it is worth asking your doctor if a phyllodes tumour has been ruled out by proper pathology.

Finally, there is a group that is rare not because of the tumour type, but because of who it affects: men. Public campaigns about breast cancer overwhelmingly depict women. Yet men have breast tissue too, and they can also develop breast cancer.

Warning signs in men are similar to those in women: a firm lump behind or close to the nipple, nipple retraction, ulceration or crusting, discharge or bleeding from the nipple, and occasionally a lump in the armpit.

The most important step is the first one: recognising that a breast lump in a man is not something to be ignored, but something to be examined. For men who are affected, the experience can be doubly isolating.

Many have never heard of male breast cancer before their own diagnosis and some delay seeking help because breast cancer is perceived as a "women's disease". Treatment follows the same broad principles as in women – surgery, hormone tablets for hormone-receptor-positive disease, and chemotherapy or targeted therapy where indicated. When diagnosed early and treated appropriately, male breast cancer can usually be brought under control.

What to watch for?

No one can tell the subtype of a breast lesion by touch alone. That is the work of imaging and pathology. But there are certain patterns of change that should never be ignored or endlessly reassured away: Any new lump in the breast or armpit that persists beyond a few weeks, in women or men; a known "benign" lump that suddenly begins to grow faster; one breast becoming noticeably different in size, shape or firmness compared to the other; nipple changes – new inversion, distortion, crusting, or discharge, especially if blood-stained or from a single duct; and skin changes – such as persistent thickening or dimpling – that do not settle.

Most of these will turn out to be benign. Some will be common NST/ductal cancers. A small minority will be the rarer entities described above. For all of them, timely evaluation including imaging, core needle biopsy, and expert interpretation is far better than months of waiting and watching.

Rare breast cancer subtypes are a quiet test of our systems. They ask whether radiologists, pathologists and surgeons are talking to each other; whether multidisciplinary care is available beyond a few big cities; and whether our registries are capturing the full spectrum of disease, not just its most familiar face.

For all of us, the message is simple: breast cancer is not just one story. There are many variations – some gentle, some more demanding – but all of them are very treatable when found early and approached without fear or delay. Paying attention to the quiet signals that something is different, and acting on them, remains the most powerful step we can take.

(Dr. Nisha Hariharan is consultant breast cancer specialist and oncoplastic *surgeon at the* Basavatarakam Indo *American Cancer Hospital & Research Institute in Hyderabad.*
dr.nishahariharan@gmail.com*)*

THE GIST

- Breast cancer is not one disease. Under the microscope, it is a family of diseases that all happen to arise in the breast. The subtype of breast cancer in the pathology report can change the likely behaviour of the disease and the kind of treatment it needs
- The key message is that breast awareness is not just about "feeling a lump". If one breast slowly begins to look or feel different from the other — in size, shape, firmness or texture — and those changes don't go away, it is worth getting checked
- Rare breast cancer subtypes are a quiet test of our systems. They ask whether radiologists, pathologists and surgeons are talking to each other; whether multidisciplinary care is available beyond a few big cities; and whether our registries are capturing the full spectrum of disease, not just its most familiar face

WHEN CHEERS CHOOSE CHAMPIONS,
SPORT MOVES FAST-FORWARD.
Vote for the Moment of the Year that replayed in your head the most in 2025.
Rishabh Pant walking out to bat with an injury at Old Trafford
Divya Deshmukh's Women's World Cup triumph
Gukesh–Carlsen spar
Mohammed Siraj's last-wicket burst at the Oval
Harmanpreet Kaur's catch in the World Cup final
SPORTSTAR ACES 2026
#IndiaTriumphs
Scan the QR code or visit sstar.news/SSAA26PA to vote!

'Bengaluru continues to be India's GCC capital'

According to the latest FICCI-ANAROCK report, the city recorded over 12 million sq. ft. of GCC leasing in 2025, far ahead of its nearest competitors, Pune with 4.8 million sq. ft. and Hyderabad and NCR with 4.5 million sq. ft.

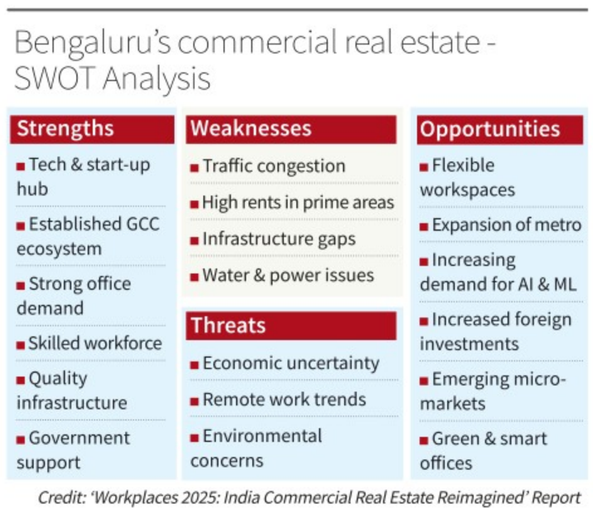
Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Capturing more than one-third of the country's total Global Capacity Centre (GCC) leasing, Bengaluru has continued to lead India's GCC landscape maintaining a clear edge over other markets, notes the latest FICCI-ANAROCK report.

According to "Workplaces 2025: India Commercial Real Estate Reimagined", GCCs accounted for nearly 40% of office leasing across India's top cities in 2025, with Bengaluru alone capturing more than one-third of the country's total GCC leasing.

The city recorded over 12 million sq. ft. of GCC leasing in 2025, far ahead of its nearest competitors – Pune with 4.8 million sq. ft. and Hyderabad and NCR with 4.5 million sq. ft.

A board announcing office space for rent put up in front of a commercial complex in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO



Credit: 'Workplaces 2025: India Commercial Real Estate Reimagined' Report

Minister Priyank Kharge says Karnataka's growth is the outcome of consistent policy focus, ecosystem building and execution on the ground

Far ahead

With the presence of 875 GCC centres, Bengaluru holds a share of more than 35% of India's GCC leasing activity in 2025.

"While all the other cities have witnessed steady gains, none come close to Bengaluru's scale or consistency. With its deep technology base, diverse talent pool, and established innovation clusters along the Outer Ring Road, Whitefield, and North Bengaluru, the city remains the epicentre of India's GCC growth story, continuing to attract the world's top enterprises for long-term expansion," notes the report.

Demand drivers

The report also identified that the city saw the addition of 13.5 million sq. ft. of new office supply in 2025 and accounted for 26% of completions across the top seven cities. Bengaluru currently has approximately 215 million sq. ft. of Grade A office stock.

"Bengaluru's office absorption has grown steadily, rising from 7.7 mn sq. ft. in 2021 to 14.93 mn sq. ft. in 2025, supported by strong occupier demand. Its share among the top seven cities has largely stayed between 24% and 30%, reflecting the city's consistent appeal through 2025 as well," said the report.

The demand is primarily driven by IT-ITeS sector, coworking operators and manufacturing and industrial segments. While IT-ITeS contributed close to 35% of the leasing activity in 2025, the share of coworking operators remained steady at 25%.

Priyank Kharge, Minister for Electronics, IT, BT and S&T, Government of Karnataka, remarked that Karnataka's growth as India's leading innovation and GCC hub is the outcome of consistent policy focus, ecosystem building and execution on the ground.

"Our emphasis has been on strengthening the startup pipeline, attracting global technology investments, and building world-class, sustainable infrastructure. The strong performance in startup funding and the continued dominance of Bengaluru in GCC-led office absorption reflect the confidence global companies and investors have in Karnataka's vision for a future-ready, innovation-led economy," the Minister said.

Congestion, slow metro expansion flagged

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The report, which identifies its startup and GCC ecosystems, strong office demand, skilled workforce, quality infrastructure and government support as strengths of Bengaluru, also highlights the city's weaknesses.

These include traffic congestion, high rentals in prime areas such as CBD & Outer Ring Road, infrastructure gaps such as slow Metro expansion, dependence on groundwater and erratic power supply.

St. Joseph's varsity to hold Scholarship Day today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

St. Joseph's University, Bengaluru, will celebrate Scholarship Day on February 13 from 3 p.m. at the University Auditorium on Lalbagh Road.

Rev. Dr. Victor Lobo, SJ, V-C, will present the University's scholarship initiatives, while Chancellor Rev. Fr. Dionysius Vaz, SJ, will preside over the event.

The Jesuit institution annually awards more than 2,000 scholarships based on merit, economic need, sports, NCC, and other categories, including support for international students. The university provides over ₹5 crore financial assistance each year. It offers free mid-day meals to around 1,500 economically disadvantaged students and breakfast to student sportspersons.

UNISEX
TONI&GUY essensuals
HAIRDRESSING
20% OFF On ALL SERVICES
EXCEPT HAIRCUT & BEARD
*T&C APPLY
OFFER VALID TILL 28TH FEB 2026
HAPPY Valentine's Day
14 FEBRUARY
AVAILABLE ONLY AT SELECTED OUTLETS
ACES LAYOUT BROOKFIELD 08049915366 | ANANTH NAGAR 080-4096 7487 | BANASWADI 7892403640 | BASAVESHWARA NAGAR 88841 63666 | BANASHANKARI | 7019506863 | BELGAUM 087480 40488 | BTM LAYOUT 8041113342 | BAGALAKUNTE 9611082790 | BATTARHALI 7259587408 | BANNERGHATTA ROAD 9611580674 | BIJAPUR 8088504624 | BELLANDUR 9980074143 | CHANDRA LAYOUT 88840 44420 | CHOKKANAHALLI 89616 20510 | CHANNASANDRA 81581 61456 | CHANDAPURA 78999 13808 | DOMMASANDRA 82967 48126 | HSR LAYOUT 96861 52499 | HULLUMAVU 89515 68899 | HEGDE NAGAR 83108 75820 | HARALUR 81877 80005 | HSR LAYOUT 2 9632772658 | HORMAVU 89718 49966 | HUSKUR 9035102669 | HOSA ROAD 9538735550 | HSR LAYOUT-1ST SECTOR 99645 11996 | JAYANAGAR(ESS I) 97383 08373 | INDIRANAGAR 9739614507 | JP NAGAR 7th PHASE 96115 68499 | JAYANAGAR(ESS 2) 96009 95300 | KAMMANAHALI 99453 04940 | KENGERI 80886 59242 | KOTHANUR 7090840303 | KORAMANGALA 83107 80489 | KAGGADASAPURA 9035068386 | KUVEMPU NAGAR 9113232906 | KADUGODI 9902698677 | KEMPAPURA 73388 71654 | KORAMANGALA 4TH BLOCK 88845 80802 | K R MOHALLA 90352 58444 | MANGALURU YEYADI 08-2435004484 | MALLESHWARAM 9113836155 | MOODBIDRI 9997779383 | NAAGARABHAAVI 98889 22206 | PUTTENAHALLI YELAHANKA 8792703571 | RT NAGAR 8217756792 | SINGANAYAKANAHALLI 80882 65085 | SAHAKAR NAGAR 72049 10402 | SHIVAMOGGA 7676223348 | SEEGEHALLI 9035610852 | VAJARAHALLI 7259162683 | ITPL WHITEFIELD 08951991519 | YELAHANKA 6366405666 | WHITEFIELD 98444 44858 | DODDANAKUNDI OLIVE 6363103017 | CHITRADURGA 99862 95463 | KADRI 70220 10513 | URWAS 89707 05090 | DODDANAKUNDI 1 6363287601
FOR FRANCHISE BUSINESS ENQUIRY, CALL : +91 90030 43257 / 72005 19522

Department of Kannada and Culture, Bangalore.
Department of Tourism, Bangalore and District Administration, Vijayanagar
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ One State, Many Worlds Department of Tourism
All are cordially invited
Inauguration by
Sri. Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka
Auspicious Presence of
Sri. D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka
Shri B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan,
Hon'ble Minister for Housing, Waqf and Minority Welfare and Minister-in-charge of Vijayanagar and Bellary districts, inspecting the preparations for the main stage of Hampi Utsav 2026.
Hon'ble MPs of district, Hon'ble Members of Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council and all people representatives will take part on this occasion
ಹಂಪಿ ಉತ್ಸವ
Our State, Our Heritage
Main Stage:
Sri M.P. Prakash Stage, Gayithri Peeth, Hampi
Parallel Stages:
Opp Basavanna Stage | Viroopaksheswara Temple Stage | Sasivekalu Ganapa Stage | Mananavami Dibba Stage
A Rasamanjari program by famous actors, actresses, music directors and playback singers from the Kannada film industry. A sound and light program by Vijayanagara Vaibhav at the Anelaya premises
Inauguration Ceremony
13.02.2026, Friday | At 6.00 pm
February 13, 14 and 15, 2026
Honourable Presence of
Shri B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan
Hon'ble Minister for Housing, Waqf and Minority Welfare and Minister-in-charge of Vijayanagar and Bellary districts
Shri H.K. Patil
Hon'ble Minister of Law, Justice, Human Rights, Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation and Tourism and Minister-in-charge of Gadag District
Shri Ramalinga Reddy
Hon'ble Minister for Transport & Muzarai and Minister-in-charge of Ramanagara District
Shri Thangadagi Shivaraj Sangappa
Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes Welfare and Kannada & Culture Department Minister-in-charge Koppal District
Presided by:
Shri H.R. Gaviyappa
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly Vijayanagara Constituency
Special Programs:
Hampi by Sky | Exhibition of Bulls | Rangoli Competition | Fruit and flower display | Fish Fair | Boating | Symposium on Hampi History | Food fair | Drone demonstration | Rural Sports | Poetry concert | Kite Show | Youth concert Folk Channel

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Rafale fighter jets India proposes to buy from France

114 India's Defence Acquisition Council on Thursday cleared an initial proposal to buy 114 Rafale fighter jets from France's Dassault Aviation for 3.25 trillion rupees ($280.4 billion), local media reported. The Air Force's fighter squadron strength has shrunk to 29 in recent months. REUTERS

Number of athletes dropped from Khelo India in last 3 years

1,342 A total of 1342 athletes have been weeded out of the Khelo India programme in the last three years for not measuring up in performance and doping violations, Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Thursday. PTI

Amount U.K. pledged to send to Ukraine for U.S. weapons

205 Britain had committed 150 million pounds ($205 million) to the Prioritised Ukraine Requirements List initiative to supply Ukraine with U.S. weapons. The scheme allows allies to fund purchases of American air-defence systems and critical equipment for Kyiv. REUTERS

Japan reports record surge in organised fraud cases

920 in $ million. Japan's criminal syndicates raked in $920 million from organised fraud last year, almost double the previous record in 2024. Organised fraud and scams are typical crimes orchestrated by the so-called *"tokuryu"* underworld. AFP

Number of deaths in Iran's crackdown on protests

7,000 The death toll from a crackdown over nationwide protests in Iran last month has reached at least 7,002 with many more still feared dead, activists said on Thursday. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu X.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

A case against the SHANTI Act

Why are suppliers indemnified? What does the Act change in the CLNDA? Does capping liability create moral hazard? How much of India's electricity comes from nuclear energy? Why have past nuclear capacity targets been missed?

EXPLAINER

Suvrat Raju

The story so far:

The SHANTI Act, passed in the Winter Session of Parliament, opens the nuclear power sector to private entities and alters the liability framework under the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA). The changes – especially on supplier indemnity and liability caps – have raised concerns about safety and accountability.

What are the key features of the SHANTI Act?

The Act has three main features.

First, it allows private entities to operate nuclear plants, ending the Union government's exclusive control over the sector. Second, the Act indemnifies nuclear suppliers by channelling liability for any accident to the operator. It omits the "right of recourse" that allowed operators to sue suppliers for accidents caused by defective equipment. The operator's liability is capped between ₹100 crore for small plants and ₹3,000 crore for the largest plants. The total liability for an accident, including that of the Centre, is capped at 300 million Special Drawing Rights, which is about ₹3,900 crore. The Act also omits Clause 46 of the CLNDA, which allowed victims to invoke other laws, including criminal laws, to seek remedies.

Finally, it provides a legislative framework for the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board but limits the Board's independence by stipulating that its members will be selected by a committee "constituted by the Atomic Energy Commission."

Why does the Act indemnify suppliers?

Design defects have played a role in all major accidents.

Safety experts had warned of a weakness in the Mark-1 containment of the GE reactors at Fukushima that exacerbated the disaster in 2011. The report of the International Nuclear Safety Advisory Group identified the reactor's "positive power coefficient" and its "deficient system for emergency shutdown" as two of the primary causes of the Chernobyl accident in 1986. The U.S. Presidential Commission on the Three Mile Island accident in 1979 noted serious flaws in the control room's design and criticised the supplier's failure to communicate known vulnerabilities to the operator. So the indemnity given to suppliers under the SHANTI Act lacks a scientific basis.

However, multinational suppliers, especially from the U.S., had complained vociferously about potential liability in India.

The 2026 U.S. National Defense Authorization Act explicitly seeks that "India ... align domestic nuclear liability rules with international norms", which are favourable to suppliers.

The SHANTI Act ensures that suppliers will not face civil or criminal consequences in India, even if accidents arise from defects in the equipment they supply.

GETTY IMAGES

How does the liability cap compare with potential damage?

The Japan Centre for Economic Research has estimated that costs associated with the Fukushima accident could reach 80 trillion yen or ₹46 lakh crore. A joint UN agencies report on the Chernobyl disaster noted that Belarus alone estimated its losses at $235 billion or ₹21 lakh crore. In addition, an area comparable in size to Goa, called the "Chernobyl Exclusion Zone," has been out of bounds for human settlement for 40 years.

The total cap on liability under the SHANTI Act is about one thousand times smaller than these figures. Even if India avails funds from the international Convention on Supplementary Compensation, the total available compensation is unlikely to reach 1% of the potential damage caused by major accidents. Victims in India would have no legal right to compensation beyond this amount and may have to bear the consequences of loss to life and property on their own. Private nuclear operators might have faced adverse financial consequences in the absence of such a cap, and the SHANTI Act ensures that their interests are protected in the event of a nuclear accident.

What are the potential safety consequences?

Protecting agents from the consequences of their actions creates a "moral hazard" and encourages them to take greater risks. In addition to the liability cap, the Act indemnifies operators for accidents caused by "a grave natural disaster", reversing India's "absolute liability" framework for hazardous industries and despite the fact that the Fukushima disaster was caused by a tsunami. This reduces the industry's incentive to establish resilient plants.

How significant is nuclear energy in India?

Nuclear energy has accounted for only about 3% of India's electricity generation for decades. In the 1980s, the government announced a programme to reach 10 GW by the year 2000 and, in 2006, it set a target of 20 GW by 2020. However, actual capacity was only 2.86 GW in 2000 and 6.78 GW in 2020. These failures were due to systemic reasons, including the high capital costs of nuclear energy and safety concerns. The "small modular reactors" advertised by the government refer to an untested technology with even higher estimated capital costs per unit of power. So, the government's new figure of 100 GW by 2047 seems unviable.

What is the economic significance of the Act?

Despite their limited capacity, nuclear reactors open up significant commercial opportunities. For instance, two Westinghouse AP1000 reactors were recently completed in the U.S. state of Georgia at a cost of about 18 billion dollars apiece. The SHANTI Act ensures that private corporations in India and multinational suppliers can profit from these opportunities without being constrained by regulatory bodies or having to face consequences for an accident.

(Suvrat Raju is a physicist associated with Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace)

THE GIST

- The SHANTI Act opens the nuclear power sector to private entities while indemnifying suppliers, capping liability, and limiting avenues for victims to seek remedies.
- The liability cap is far lower than the potential damage seen in major accidents like Fukushima and Chernobyl, raising concerns about safety, accountability, and moral hazard.
- Despite nuclear energy contributing only about 3% of India's electricity generation, the Act creates significant commercial opportunities for private corporations and multinational suppliers.

Why has J&K shelved the Dal Lake restoration plan?

What environmental pressures have degraded Dal Lake over the decades?

Peerzada Ashiq

The story so far:

The Jammu and Kashmir government this month decided to shelve the ₹416.72-crore restoration and conservation plan for the famous Dal Lake in Srinagar. The decision was made public in the J&K Assembly in response to a question by ruling National Conference (NC) legislator Tanvir Sadiq. The government has now proposed an *in-situ* conservation plan that would allow the dwellers to live on the lake. The shelved restoration and preservation plan, introduced by the Manmohan Singh government in 2009, aimed to address key issues ailing the lake by shifting around 9,000 Dal Lake dwellers. It sought to tackle problems such as the shrinking area of the lake, depleting water quality, uncontrolled discharge of effluents into the water body and growing population.

What issues does Dal Lake face?

Over the past four decades, the lake has recorded an extreme decline in water quality due to anthropogenic pressures, according to a 2022 survey conducted by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST). It warned of extreme pollution loads and encroachment in and around the lake, the incursion of invasive plants and animals leading to rapid degradation of water quality.

The study observed that untreated sewage discharged from several point and non-point sources has severely deteriorated water quality. The situation has been further exacerbated by deforestation, grazing, agriculture, and changes in land use and land cover patterns in the lake's catchment area. The reduction in the number of inflows and internal water channels has also led to poor water circulation.

Nutrient enrichment of the lake water and sediments has caused extreme weed growth and altered the lake's biodiversity, it warned.

What were the contours of the earlier proposal?

In 2009, the Manmohan Singh government approved the ₹416.72-crore plan, which envisaged the shifting of 9,000 families in the first phase to a new location in Srinagar's Bemina area. Each Dal Lake family was offered a plot of land, ₹1.05 lakh for structure, and ₹3.91 lakh as one-time compensation. The colony earmarked for the Dal Lake dwellers, named Rakh-e-Arth, was located in a low-lying, flood-prone area of Bemina and required extensive land filling. With a significant amount spent on land filling, the government failed to fully establish basic facilities. This slowed down the pace of shifting of the lake dwellers.

According to official figures, around 1808 families were successfully rehabilitated in 17 years. "However, it has failed to yield tangible outcomes on the ground," according to the J&K government.

It said the lake conservation efforts recorded only 27% of the goal.

What new measures are proposed?

In 2022, the J&K government set up a High-Level Committee, which proposed an in-situ conservation plan. It termed the Dal Lake dwellers an "integral part of the lake ecosystem".

The J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) has been directed to work out a comprehensive policy to implement in-situ conservation. It has also advocated that relocation and rehabilitation of left-out structures in the priority hamlets, however, will proceed concurrently in consonance with the present acquisition procedure in vogue. The government has identified 58 hamlets within the lake, of which six will be equipped with two modular Sewage Treatment Plants. Under the Prime Minister's Development Package, an integrated management programme for the conservation of the Dal-Nigeen Lake ecosystem has been framed.

Officials said Kachri Mohalla within the lake already functions as a modern village. A Detailed Project Report has been drafted by the IIT Roorkee and an amount of ₹212.38 crore will be spent over a period of five years. The project aims to address sewerage issues in 28 internal hamlets, treat inflow from catchment areas, and dredge interior channels. It is currently awaiting final approval from the Finance Department, officials said. It also proposes widening the development of interior water channels for the revival of interior circulation and smooth navigation.

THE GIST

- The ₹416.72-crore restoration plan was shelved as it failed to yield tangible outcomes on the ground, prompting the government to propose an in-situ conservation plan treating dwellers as an integral part of the lake ecosystem.
- Dal Lake faces extreme decline in water quality due to anthropogenic pressures, including untreated sewage discharge, extreme pollution loads, encroachment, invasive plants and animals, deforestation, land use changes, poor water circulation, and nutrient enrichment leading to extreme weed growth and altered biodiversity.

Action and reaction: The police detaining protesters at Town Hall who had taken part in the general strike on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Trade unions protest at Town Hall; banking services hit

Workers who demanded repeal of the labour codes, were detained, arrested and removed from the spot; many of them were taken to the CAR police grounds, where they continued the protest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Thousands of workers and trade union activists gathered at Town Hall in Bengaluru on Thursday in response to the general strike called by the joint committee of trade unions against the four labour codes. Banks in the city were affected as clerks and sub-staff stayed away from work in protest, while transport and other sectors saw no impact.

The protesting workers at Town Hall, who demanded repeal of the labour codes and reinstatement of MGNREGA, were detained, arrested and removed from the spot by the police. Many of the arrested protesters were taken to the CAR police grounds in Adugodi, where they continued the protest.

Auto drivers staging a demonstration at Freedom Park on Thursday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

"The labour codes by the Central government are anti-worker and exploitative. We demand immediate repeal of all four codes," said one of the protesters who also questioned the State government on trying to suppress people's right to peacefully protest.

Protesters forming a human chain during the general strike in Kalaburagi on Thursday. ARUN KULKARNI

Trade unionists from CITU, INTUC, AITUC, HMS, AIUTUC, AICCTU, TUCC and HMKP, and activists from Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha took part in the protest.

Workers also gathered and held processions across industrial areas, including at Jigani, Bommasandra, Hoskote, Doddaballapur, Whitefield, Nelamangala, and Dobbspet, where factories were shut down. Hundreds of IT employees, under the banner of Karnataka IT/ITeS Employees Union (KITU), also participated in the protest near Town Hall.

GENERAL STRIKE

Buses emptied

As the number of protesters swelled and the Town Hall area started witnessing tense scenes, BMTC passengers alleged that the police asked them to alight so as to transport the protesting workers away from the spot. The police removed close to 10 busloads of workers from the Town Hall area.

According to a female commuter, "The police forced us to get out of the bus. When we protested, they cut us off saying we are travelling for free and can look for an alternative bus."

According to Suresh Hegde, general secretary, Officers' Union at Karnataka Bank and also All India Bank Officers' Association joint secretary, the trade union strike has impacted branch-based banking transactions in the country. KSRTC and BMTC officials said there was no impact of the strike on bus operations, and services ran as usual

Massive participation

According to a statement issued by CITU, around 6 lakh people, including factory workers, anganwadi and Aksharadasoha gram panchayat workers, construction labourers, porters, municipal workers, and contractual and outsourced employees, participated in the strike.

"Workers in several manufacturing units in the State's industrial cities such as Mysuru, Tumakuru, Belagavi, Kalaburagi, and Raichur participated in the strike. The strike was successful in automobile, vehicle spare parts manufacturing, electronics, textile, pharma, tire and power generation units... In addition, more than 1,000 employees of the State-owned Hutti Gold Mine in Raichur protested by blocking the road for an hour," said the statement.

Two more mobile phones seized from central prison

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two mobile phones were seized during a surprise inspection at the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison on Sunday.

According to a complaint, Assistant Jailer S.J. Jakati and other staff members conducted a search between 1.57 p.m. and 2.08 p.m. in Tower-01, Barrack No. 01.

A file photo of the central prison at Parappana Agrahara.

During the search, officials recovered two mobile phones concealed outside the washroom of tower 1 barracks. The possession and use of mobile phones inside prison premises are strictly banned under prison regulations.

Authorities suspect that the mobile phones were smuggled into the prison with the assistance of certain individuals.

A case has been registered under Section 42 of the Karnataka Prisons (Amendment) Act, 2022, along with other relevant provisions.

Further investigation is under way to identify the inmates involved and those who aided in bringing the banned items into the prison, according to police.

Two killed in accidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two persons, including a software engineer, were killed in separate road accidents reported under the Nelamangala and Bellandur traffic police station limits.

In the first incident, a 29-year-old man identified as Yashavanth, a native of Tumakuru district, died after his motorcycle was hit by an unidentified vehicle on the NICE Road flyover near Nelamangala. Yashavanth was working in a private company and was on his way to work.

The Nelamangala traffic police have registered a case.

In another incident, a 23-year-old software engineer, Varshit, a native of Tamil Nadu, was killed after the bike he was riding crashed into a compound wall near Bellandur in the early hours of Thursday. The accident occurred around 2.30 a.m. on Sarjapur Road. His friend Vishanth Datta, who was riding pillion, sustained serious injuries and is currently undergoing treatment. His condition is said to be critical.

The Bellandur traffic police have registered a case.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of E-Tender
Notice No. 29-CWS-MYSS-2025-26
dated 07.02.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Item of Work	Approx. Value
Oxy Cutting of Condemned Wheel Disc of ICF/BOXN /BLC/LOCO and LHB Wheel Sets.	Rs. 10,04,177.64/-

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 15.30 hrs on 02.03.2026
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Deputy Chief Workshop Manager/ Mysuru
PUB/893/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking)
GSTIN: 09AACCU2250P1ZZ; CIN: U85310UP2018SGC102425
Tender Ref. No.: GEM/2026/B/7198526 **Date: 10-02-2026**
Tender Notice Invitation
Uttar Pradesh Medical Supplies Corporation Limited, Lucknow invites tenders on GeM Portal from eligible and qualified Manufacturer/Importer/Authorized Agent for supply of **Heavy Duty Storage Racks** The schedules of Tendering activities are as here under:

S.N.	Activity	Date & Time
1.	Tender Reference No.	GEM/2026/B/7198526
2.	Commencement of Downloading of Tender Document	10-02-2026
3.	Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting	16/02/2026 at 4:00 PM in Conference Hall of UPMSCL, Lucknow.
4.	Last Date & Submission of Online Bids	03/03/2026 up to 19:00 PM.
5.	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	03/03/2026 at 19:30 PM
6.	Date of Completion of Examination of Technical Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
7.	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal
8.	Date of Completion of Examination of Financial Bid	To be declared on GeM Portal

The details of tender notice are given on GeM Portal & UPMSCL website www.upmsc.in. Kindly check GeM Portal & UPMSCL website for any detail & updates.
Managing Director, UPMSCL
Department of Medical Health & Family Welfare, Uttar Pradesh

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.
HE-TRD-2025-26-OT-38 dated 06.02.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Name of Work	Approx.Value
Annual maintenance including supply and installation of must change materials/ spares and scheduled maintenance of Tower Wagons of Hubballi Division for the period of 2 years.	Rs. 11,12,11,754.92/-

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 11.00 hrs on 10.03.2026
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ TRD/Hubballi
PUB/892/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the **RailOne** app. RailOne is the all-in-one railway app by Indian Railways. Passengers can book reserved tickets, unreserved tickets, platform tickets, and season passes, check PNR status, order food, and access many more services at their fingertips. Use digital payment to book unreserved tickets through **RailOne** app, and enjoy up to a **3%** discount.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE
This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Smt.Shataj Begum W/o Mohammed Saif Ulla** to bring the notice of the general public that following **Original registered deeds are Lost/misplaced as 1) MODTD doc.No.DBP-1-02306/2016-17, 2) Letter of Continuity doc.No.DBP-1-12155/ 2019-20 & 3) Discharge deed doc.No.DBP-1-07676/2023-24,** all are registered in the office of Sub-Registrar Doddaballapura, are missing / lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property.
If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **14 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the immovable property bearing No.1066/064/2125 **Present Katha Sl.No. 4451, old katha No. 1066/2064/2125/1-46/47-62/39;** situated at **Palanajogahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bangalore Rural District,** measuring East to West **30 feet** and North to South **40 feet, (30ft X 40ft)** and land bounded as:-
East by : Site No.38, West by : Site No.40, North by : Property of Allabhaksh, South by : Road.
H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

Government of Odisha
"e" procurement of Notice
Bid Identification No.01 of 2025-26
Notice No.625 / Dated 11-02-2026 **(Ref- TCN No.622 / Dated 11.02.2026)**

Sr.No.	Item	Details
1	The GENERAL MANAGER, OSAM BOARD invites percentage rate bids in Double cover system in ONLINE MODE only for work as detailed below:	
2	Nature of the work	Construction of building type works.
3	No of work	06 Nos
4	Bid Cost	Rs.10000.00 online transfer
5	Value of Tender	Rs.371.83 lakhs to Rs.565.62 lakhs
6	Class of Contractor	"A" Class
7	Availability of BID Documents in the website	Dt.13.02.2026 to 27.02.2026
8	Last date/time of Receipt of bids in the portal	Dt.27.02.2026 up to 5.00 PM
9	Date of opening of bid	Dt.02.03.2026 at 11.30 AM
10	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website: **https://tendersorissa.gov.in**. Any Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation of the Tender etc. can also be seen in the website: **https://tendersorissa.gov.in**.	

Sd/- General Manager, O.S.A.M Board, Bhubaneswar
39001/8/2526 OIPR-39001/39024/1/25-26/0002

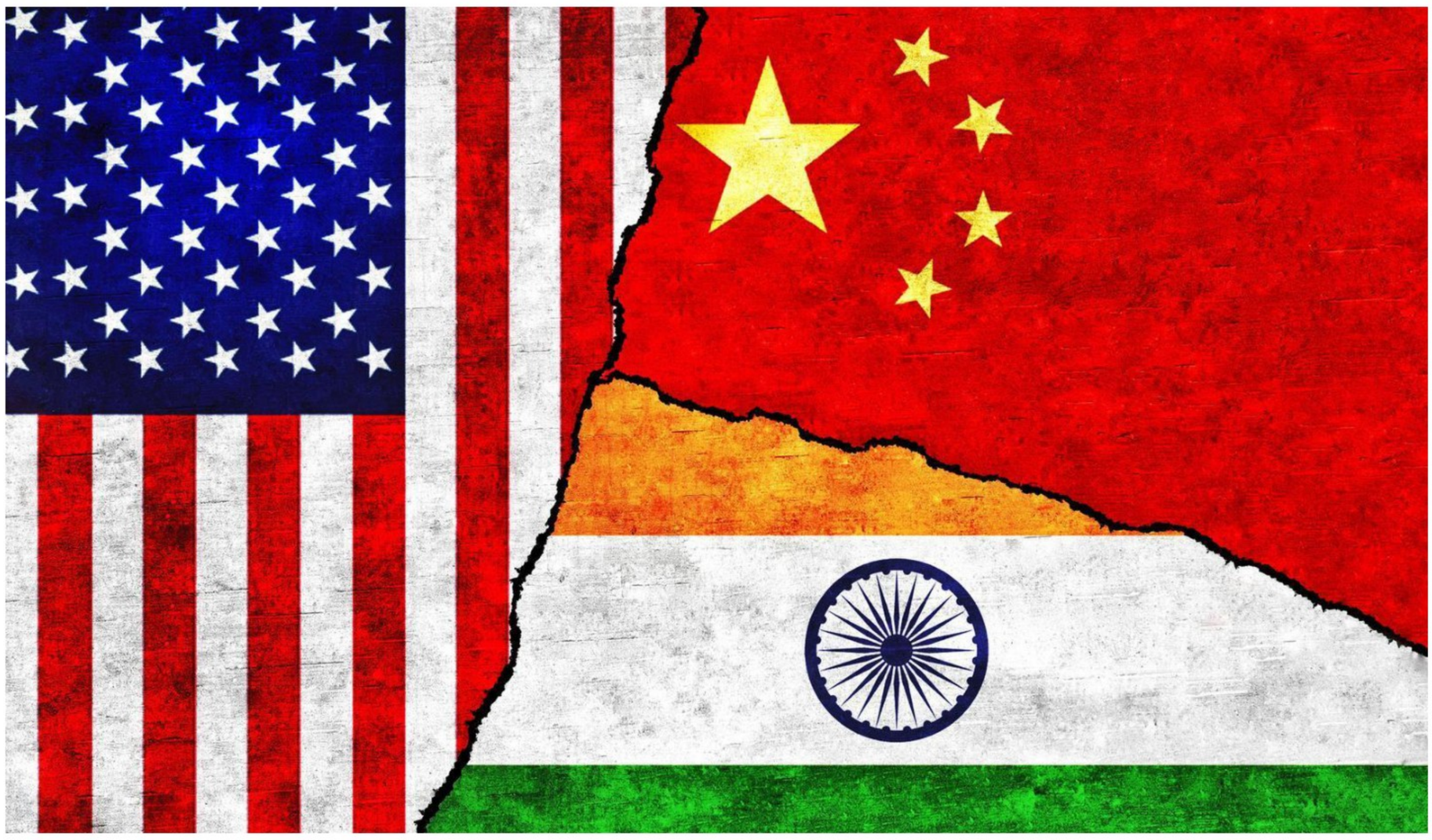
PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the general public that our client, **Kum. Prarthana Anand, daughter of Sri. Anand Girish, residing at No. 38, 17th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore- 560055,** proposes to purchase the immovable property described in the Schedule hereunder. The said property is currently owned by **Mr. Mauro D'souza, son of the Late A. J. William D'souza,** residing at No. 102, Falcons Nest, Bride Street, Langford Town, Bangalore - 560025.
Any person, entity, or authority claiming any right, title, interest, lien, or objection in respect of the scheduled property, whether by way of sale, mortgage, gift, lease, inheritance, or otherwise, is hereby required to submit their claims or objections in writing. Such submissions must be supported by relevant documentary evidence and delivered to the undersigned at the address provided below within ten (10) days from the date of this publication.
Should no objections or claims be received within the stipulated period, our client shall proceed with the transaction under the presumption that the property is free from all encumbrances and that no such claims or objections exist.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All the peace and parcel of Building No. 118 constructed by the Bangalore Development Authority in Block No.10 in the Rajamahal Vilas II stage HIG/SFHS Extension Bangalore and bounded by:- On the East by :- Site No.119, On the West by :- Site No.117, On the North by :- Site No.115, On the South by :- 7th Cross Road, And measuring East to West: 16.70 Mtrs, North to South 18.30 Mtrs in all 305.61 Square Metres.
Date: **13-02-2026,** Place: Bangalore
Thanks and Regards,
VIJAY. S. M.Com, LLB, Advocate.
#12/78, old No.188, 9th Cross, Rajagopala Nagar, Main Road, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560058.
advocatevijay080@gmail.com
Ph: **90364 52527.**

IN THE COURT OF XXXI ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL JUDGE (CCH:14) AT BENGALURU
O.S. No. 8318/2023
BETWEEN ; Dr. Amit Agarwal Son of R.P Agarwal R/at at No 63, 1st Cross, 4th Main, Domlur, 2nd Stage, Bengaluru -560 071 ...PLAINTIFF
AND ; Mr. Pramod Bopanna. ...DEFENDANT
SUMMONS / NOTICE TO DEFENDANT UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 (1-A) OF C.P.C.
DEFENDANT : Mr. Pramod Bopanna, aged about 37 years, S/o Rajappa, C/o Jeevan, R/at No.2, 4th Cross, Vignanagar, Bengaluru -560 037
Also Residing at No.134, 3rd Main, 3rd Cross, Malleshpalya, New Thippasandra Post, Bangalore-560 075 Also Residing at Maruthinagar, 10th Main, 14th Cross, New Thippasandra Post, Bangalore-560 075
Whereas, Plaintiff has instituted the above suit against the Defendant seeking relief for Money Recovery for a sum of Rs. 46,03,500/- (Forty six Lakh Three Thousand Five Hundred Only) together with interest at the rate 18% per annum from the date of issue of the Cheque dated 27.12.2020 till the date of realization. The case stands posted to **16.04.2026.** You are hereby summoned to appear on that day at **11.00 A.M** before the Court of XXXI Additional City Civil Judge (CCH:14) at Bengaluru, in person or through duly instructed Advocate failing which, the matter will be heard and decided against you by placing ex parte.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court this the 5th day of February 2026.
By Order of the Court
Sd/- Senior Sheristedar
City Civil Court, Bengaluru
Advocate for Plaintiff, G. Chandra Shekar
No.27/1, Chandraok Apartments, 5th Cross. Gandhinagar, Bengaluru -560 009
Mob No. 98451 91991

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to the General public / Whomsoever it may concern that my client **SRI.S.R.VISHNU TEJA** S/o Sri.Sharaff Ramesh, and SMT. NAGASHREE H.K W/o S.R.Vishnu Teja, both are residing at No.401, Lemon Tree Apartment, Mariyanpalya, Kempapura, Near Manjunatha Grand Hotel. Hebbal, H.A.Farm Post, Bengaluru-24 are intending to purchase the schedule property belonging to SRI.B.V.VENKATAR AMANAPPA S/o Venkata Reddy, Residing at No.11, Tirumala Nivas, 1st Floor, Kalappa Layout, Near Govt.School, Amruthahalli, Sahakaranagar Post, Bangalore-560077 and Mr.R.WAZEED S/o Late. Rahmen Sab residing at Flat No.303, 3rd Floor, Elements 5 Adti Greenscapes Ave, 1st Phase, Sampigehalli Road, MCECHS Layout, Bengaluru -560077. They represent that, they are the absolute owners and having clear and marketable title to the schedule property. Any persons, firm, institution including Financial institution claiming to have any right/title/interest/claims or enforceable right in the schedule property either as the owner or in any other manner of objection for such alienation may lodge their objections with documentary proof within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, with the undersigned, failing which it will be presumed that no valid claims and objections subsist and thereafter my clients shall proceed to complete the sale transaction with owners referred above.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Residential Property bearing Vacant site No.284, vide BDA Katha Application No. BD006S240002517, PID No: 5228070749 dated 21.03.2024, of 7th Block, Arkavathy Layout in sy.No.90/6B of Jakkur Village Yelahanka Hobli, Previously Bangalore North Taluk and Presently Yelahanka Taluk in a Layout formed by the "Bangalore Development Authority" Bangalore measuring East to West : 9.00 (Nine) Metres, North to South: 6.00 (Six) Metres, totally measuring 54.00 Square Metres, along with approximately 16 squares RCC roofed House constructed thereon of Tiles flooring, doors and Windows are of Honne and Teak wood with all civic amenities and bounded on **East by :** Site No.299,
West by : Road,
North by : Site No.283,
South by : Site No.285,
N. MOHAN KUMAR Advocate
No.35, 1st Floor, 1st Block 5th Cross, Near Gandhinagar Higher Secondary School, Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-20 Ph : 9731719219, email: mohankumar13783@gmail.com

HIMACHAL PRADESH INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(Government of Himachal Pradesh)
REQUEST FOR EMPANELMENT (RFE) FOR MERCHANT BANKERS cum ARRANGERS AND ADVISORS
The Government of Himachal Pradesh through H.P. Infrastructure Development Board (HPIDB) invites RFE for the Empanelment of Merchant Bankers-cum-Arrangers and Advisors to assist & advise the designate HP Government PSUs/ Organizations in raising debt through loans and bond issuances. The empanelment will create a pool of financial institutions that can be engaged on a case-by-case basis to provide a range of services, including structuring, advising, arranging, and executing debt raising transactions.
The RFE Document shall be available from **12-Feb-2026** at https://hptenders.gov.in Bidders are requested to submit their proposals online as per the prescribed formats on or before **07-Mar-2026 by 5:00 PM**. A pre-bid meeting shall be organized for the same on **21-Feb-2026** at **11:00 AM** through online and physical mode at the office of HPIDB, Shimla. Online link shall be provided on the e-procurement portal.
The last date for submission of proposal is 07.03.2026 Upto 5:00 PM
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:
Chief General Manager
Himachal Pradesh Infrastructure Development Board
New Himrus Building, Circular Road, Himland
Shimla-171001, Himachal Pradesh, India
Phone No.: +91 177-2626696, 2627312
Email: hpidb-hp@nic.in; website: https://hpidb.hp.gov.in/

FULL CONTEXT



GETTY IMAGES

As multilateralism erodes, India must reframe its foreign policy

Multilateral structures and international institutions are withering away as power politics and transactional relationships reshape the new world order; India must reframe foreign policy beyond strategic autonomy, build endogenous capabilities, diversify trade, and pursue Viksit Bharat 2047

Mukul Sanwal

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally acknowledged the new world order. The hard part is to formulate a new national identity and approach to international relations.

Eroding multilateralism

India's leadership of the Global South at the United Nations General Assembly was the foundation of its long-standing foreign policy of 'strategic autonomy'. The global rules agreed in the UN established by former colonial powers led by the U.S. served their interests in the post-colonial world. India's Oxbridge-educated diplomats had unquestioned leadership in the UN negotiating text on principles and rules, successfully diverting pressure on poor countries. Climate negotiations ending in 1992 were left entirely to India by the Global South.

However, China's rise around 2010, through the creation of alternative funding, economic and security institutions, impacted the intellectual leadership position of India and also changed the UN irreversibly. China heads four principal UN agencies, and its aid volumes exceed those of the West. The U.S., now unable to manage the UN process, has withdrawn from 31 UN institutions.

In 1986, the U.S. launched the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations, leading to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995, where developing countries' interests became more differentiated, and India struggled to secure its interests. In a more equal world, since 2019, the U.S. has rejected the dispute settlement mechanism of the WTO, making it dysfunctional and reverting to unilateral tariffs. China, in contrast, has diversified its exports away from the U.S. and is now the largest trading partner of 120 countries.

The problem India faces is not from the rise of China. While the EU and Canada acknowledge the collapse of the multilateral structures, developing countries are wondering how to revive them. With the potential to become the world's third-largest economy, India is particularly impacted in the U.S.-dominated world of transactional relationships, even willing to discard NATO.

The evolution of strategic autonomy

First, leadership of the Global South gave India outsized influence and now where do you speak for developing countries when international institutions and law have withered away? The U.S. and China are competing for technological dominance, not votes in the UN.

Second, 'strategic autonomy' applied to the Cold War when India led the Non-Aligned Movement. It lost relevance after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 and gradually became a self-declared identity used to rationalise foreign policy choices. India joined the U.S.-led rejuvenated Quad in 2017 and then chose the Russian S-400 missile system over the U.S. Patriot system in 2018.

The reality is that India gravitated towards the Soviet Union after its 1951 veto prevented discussion of Kashmir in the UN Security Council. Russia remains India's only long-trusted partner giving cutting-edge military technology, which the U.S. is chipping away at testing India's resolve to remain a third pole in a multipolar world.

Third, with China's rise, U.S. analysts began describing India not as strategically autonomous but as a "swing state." The current U.S. military strategy rejects containment of China.

Power politics

The major scope of international relations, outside of alliances, was within multilateral institutions which has now returned to asymmetric relations. Reciprocity in tariffs is redefined as "America first", implying others are in a subordinate relationship. Under the India-U.S. Framework Agreement, India has agreed to double imports, largely industrial products, while the U.S. continues an 18% tariff, unilaterally deciding reductions clearly after further concessions. The EU trade agreement eliminated 70% tariff lines with phased reciprocal reductions.

The real question for India is why it was targeted by the U.S. tariffs and how to grow in a world marked by flux.

The U.S. is determined to prevent the rise of another China and India alone has the potential to overtake the U.S. China exploited multilateral rules to become a fiercely independent global manufacturing power and that opportunity no longer exists. The long-term U.S. policy of keeping India apart from Russia and China has now gained greater force and blunting it will test Indian diplomacy.

Reframing foreign policy

India's comparative advantage lies in its young population; nearly half of Silicon Valley's workforce traces its roots to India. Building and attracting that talent can develop the capability to become a 'cyber superpower', spreading AI across security, manufacturing and services to secure development space.

To achieve this, India needs good economic and technological relations with the U.S., Russia, and China, Free Trade Agreements (FTA), and, importantly foreign policy replacing 'strategic autonomy' with 'Viksit Bharat 2047'.

First, taking a leaf from China and the U.S. in the early 1900s, India should bide its time, maintain a low international profile and develop endogenous capabilities, requiring a diplomatic posture to accelerate the Asian Century and a passive role in all other regions.

Second, India must prioritise trade diplomacy by diversifying exports away from the U.S., even as vulnerabilities remain in bilateral relationships. Now that India is open to industrial imports, the push for FTAs must continue with Asia, soon to have two-thirds of global wealth, and Africa, the fastest-growing continent.

Third, India should create new technological, cyber and space relations with Russia, its steadfast and tested partner, now more an Asian than European power. It should also enable China to invest in infrastructure and partner manufacturing, with safeguards, to take advantage of trade opportunities and accelerate growth.

Fourth, India should treat relations with Pakistan as a foreign policy issue rather than a security challenge. A new water-sharing arrangement incorporating the needs of the Kashmir Valley, revival of the Iran-Pakistan-India Peace Pipeline with Pakistan benefiting from transit fees, and even a trade agreement could create economic incentives.

Lastly, as chair of BRICS, India has an opportunity to articulate its new foreign policy by building consensus on repositioning BRICS as an economic cooperation community, not a political multilateral body. Linking official digital currencies to make cross-border trade, repatriation and tourism payments smoother will be a good first step.

(Mukul Sanwal is a former UN diplomat)

THE DAILY QUIZ

Today is World Radio Day. Here is a quiz on radios

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1
From which language is the word 'radio' derived?

QUESTION 2
Guglielmo Marconi was given the Nobel Prize for his contributions to the development of wireless telegraphy. He also designed and built X to amplify the Pope's voice. What is X called?

QUESTION 3
The radio has educated people, been a custodian of cultural heritage, been used to provide emergency alerts, and catalysed agricultural revolutions, among other things. But the radio has also been used a tool for spreading hate speech. It was used by Hutu hardliners in 1993 to dehumanise X and led to a genocide. Name X.

QUESTION 4
This is the largest radio network in the world. It has another name, which, when translated, means 'voice from the sky'.

QUESTION 5
X was founded 100 years ago and gained massive popularity across South Asia for broadcasting Bollywood music, most notably the iconic Binaca Geetmala hosted by Amin Sayani. What is it called?

Visual Question:
A radio adaptation of a book by H. G. Wells, by an American actor and filmmaker (seen in photo), reportedly triggered panic in the U.S. What did he say was going to happen?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Lincoln was elected from the newly formed Republican Party. To which party did he belong before that? **Ans: The Whig Party**
2. Lincoln was very good in a contact sport and is enshrined in the Hall of Fame for that sport. Name the sport. **Ans: Wrestling**
3. What is the relevance of the phrase 'You sockdologizing old man-trap' in the life of Lincoln? **Ans: It was the line from 'Our American Cousin' that acted as a cue for John Wilkes Booth to fire the shots at the President**
4. If the famous President's memorial is in Washington DC, where is his resting place? **Ans: Springfield, Illinois**
5. Which national holiday did he establish in 1863 during the Civil War? **Ans: Thanksgiving Day**
6. On May 22, 1849, Lincoln was given Patent No. 6469 and is the only U.S. President to have a patent. What did he devise? **Ans: A buoying vessel to lift boats over shoals**
7. Apart from Kansas, which two States were admitted to the Union during Lincoln's presidency? **Ans: West Virginia and Nevada**
8. What does the landmark 13 Amendment, passed by Congress shortly before Lincoln's death, deal with? **Ans: Abolishment of slavery**
Visual: Name this legendary English scientist who was born on the same date and year as Lincoln. **Ans: Charles Darwin**
Early Birds: Mohan Lal Patel | Sukdev Shet | Arun Kumar Singh | Dodo Jayaditya | Sadhan Panda

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

"I hear you have a new neighbour. What's he like?"

"Please don't remind me about Bhatnagar. He's a walking disaster area. Yesterday, he ....."

"...a walking disaster area?"

"When you refer to a person as being a walking disaster area, you mean that he/she is prone to accidents."

"Our previous servant maid was a walking disaster area. Can I say that?"

"You certainly can. I remember that maid. She broke your stereo system, didn't she? Even a walking disaster area like her has to earn a living, you know!"

"But we thought it best if she earned her living somewhere else. By the way, does the expression have two left feet mean the same thing ?"

"When you say that someone has two left feet, it means that he/she is very clumsy or awkward."

My cousin wanted to learn dancing. But the teacher refused to teach her. She felt my cousin had two left feet.

"Tell me more about your neighbour."

"He is a bit of a free loader."

"I've heard of a free spirit, but what is a free loader?"

"A free loader is someone who eats and drinks at other people's expense. I see. They are the kind of people who come to a hotel with you and let you pay the bill."

"Exactly! There are several free loaders in our office."

"My friend Shyam is a sort of a free loader, but he is wonderful company."

"I wish I could say the same thing about free loading Bhatnagar. That man talks about only one thing...."

"...let me guess. He talks only about himself!"

"Exactly! He is lousy company."

"What does he do for a living?"

"I have a feeling that he's been put out to pasture."

'Put out to pasture? What does it mean?'

"When animals get old and they cannot....."

"...they cannot work any more, they are left in the fields to look after themselves. Everyone knows that!"

"What you are doing in that case is putting the animal out to pasture."

"Usually old horses are put out to pasture. Like animals, people too are put out to pasture. What it means..."

"...let me guess. Animals are put out to pasture when they are unfit to work. So I guess when someone is put out to pasture it means he/she is unfit to work. Maybe he/she has grown old."

"Exactly! When someone retires, you say that he/she has been put out to pasture. It's an informal expression."

"I see."

"My boss will be put out to pasture in a couple of years' time."

"I am sure there are many people in your office who want him to be put out to pasture right now. When will they put you out to pasture?"

"Me? They won't put me out to pasture now. I have lots of good years left."

"That's what you think! By the way, can this expression be used with things?"

"Yes, it can. For example, it's time to put my old scooter out to pasture."

"My mother keeps telling my father that our old fridge is ready to be put out to pasture. Does that sound O.K.?"

"Sounds good. My boss' car is ready to be put out to pasture."

"Hey there's someone at the door. Do you think it's the free loader?"

"Wonder what the man with the two left feet wants."

Published in The Hindu on August 03, 1999

Word of the day

Pernicious:
exceedingly harmful

Synonyms: destructive, evil, adverse

Usage: *The report warns of the pernicious effects of misinformation.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/perniciouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /pənɪʃəs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Racing activities of BTC to move to Kunigal Stud Farm

The existing turf club in the heart of the city will be turned into a lung space, says H.K. Patil

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Turf Club will be given a two-year deadline to vacate the current premises in the High Grounds area and move to the stud farm. FILE PHOTO

After years of dithering over the shifting of racing activities on the more-than-a-century-old Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) premises, the Karnataka government on Thursday approved granting 110 acres in the historic Kunigal Stud Farm, about 60 kms from here, to lay a new racing track and move the racing activities there.

The BTC will be given a two-year deadline to vacate the current premises in High Grounds area and move to the Stud Farm.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said in the post-Cabinet briefing, "The existing turf club in Bengaluru will be turned into a lung space. The turf club has been asked to move to the new premises within two years. The land at Kunigal Stud Farm will be given on a 29 years lease with an extension facility of another 29 years".

Heritage building
The Minister said that the BTC will be allowed to retain four acres on the current premises that have a heritage building and other infrastructure to run the club.

The lease amount would be 2.5% of the guidance value of the land at both places - 110 acres in Kunigal and four acres in Bengaluru. The BTC has agreed to shift racing activities to Kunigal in two years, the Cabinet note said.

The BTC functioned on 83 acres in Bengaluru, granted by the erstwhile Maharaja of Mysore in 1923, and the lease period had ended in 2009. Since then, governments have been asking the BTC to vacate the land in the City centre.

In recent years, the tug-of-war between the club and the government had ended in cancellation of races in peak racing season, and eventually, the BTC agreed to shift racing activities to Kunigal Stud Farm in October 2025.

The Kunigal Stud Farm is 232 years old and is known for breeding horses, and the farm is equipped with veterinary hospital, stables, paddock and other structures.

While the government had extended the lease of Kunigal Stud Farm from 2023 to United Racing and Bloodstock Breeders, an earlier proposal - now dropped - to develop a township had drawn ire from the locals and racing enthusiasts.

Cabinet nod for Shakti scheme smart cards to streamline zero ticket system

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday approved the distribution of smart cards to beneficiaries of the State's flagship Shakti Scheme, nearly two-and-a-half years after the scheme was launched.

'Will take time'
Speaking to *The Hindu*, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy said that the cards will be distributed free of cost to beneficiaries. "We are planning to distribute through the Seva Sindhu portal or through Bangalore One and Karnataka One centres upon registration. However, the rollout may take some time as the cards have to be manufactured," Mr. Reddy said.

"The smart card will help the government accurately record the actual number of passengers who have travelled and enable the generation of reliable data," Mr. Reddy added.

Introduced on June 11, 2023, as the first of the Congress government's five guarantees, the Shakti scheme allows women, including transgender persons and students, to travel free of cost on non-premium State-run buses. The scheme has since emerged as one of the most popular welfare initiatives in the State and even earned a place in the Golden Book of World Records for ferrying the highest number of women passengers under a free-travel programme.

According to official data as of February 10, 2026, as many as 666,92,61,660 women passengers have travelled under the scheme across Karnataka. The total ticket value of women passengers travelled stands at ₹17,271,11,35,254.

Data accuracy
Despite its success, the smart card system, envisioned to streamline ticketing and improve data collection, had remained in the pipeline.

At present, women passengers can avail themselves of a 'zero ticket' by showing any valid government-issued identity card to conductors. However, officials said there were instances where a few passengers produced identity cards that were "not valid or duplicate" to claim zero tickets. The scheme is meant exclusively for women domiciled in Karnataka.

An official said that the smart card was very much necessary for the conductors also as there were cases where few conductors were also issuing zero tickets without any person travelling to show or to increase the number of passengers leading to incorrect data.

Official added, "Manually verifying identity cards in crowded buses often delays conductors' work. With smart cards, conductors can generate tickets quickly by either visually verifying the card or tapping it on the Electronic Ticketing Machine (ETM), eliminating delays caused by checking identity documents".

Law Department asked to study implications of SIR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the Election Commission of India is expected to undertake Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Karnataka shortly, the State Cabinet on Thursday asked the Law Department to study the legality and consequences of the SIR and submit a report.

"The report could be given before the end of this (February) month. There are various issues and consequences that needs to be studied," Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said, adding that the Cabinet discussed on the impending SIR.

Meanwhile, sources in the government said that with the State Election Commission expected to draw up its own electoral roll, it could possibly be held against the SIR. Sources also said that one of the concerns for the government in SIR, based on experiences elsewhere, was about the mapping that could lead to eventual deletion of names.

According to official data as of February 10, 2026, as many as 666,92,61,660 women passengers have travelled under the scheme across Karnataka

From Page One

Conditional approval for IPL matches at Chinnaswamy Stadium

Following the fiasco, the State government, which came under intense scrutiny by the Karnataka High Court, and was embarrassed in public, banned sporting activity with spectators until safety measures were put in place.

17 recommendations
The retired judge Micheal Cunha who probed the matter listed 17 recommendations to make the stadium safe for spectators. While pressure was on the State government to allow matches to be played, the government asked GBA Commissioner Maheshwar Rao to scrutinise the compliance to the Cunha committee recommendation.

Safety compliance
On Thursday, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil, when asked about the level of compliance by the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) in making the stadium safe for spectators, said that the Home Minister would be revealing the details.

"The Home Department will issue special order revealing conditions and preparedness needed. The government took note of the Cunha Committee report and the report of expert committee, headed by Maheshwar Rao, following which the decision was taken."

Water rationing

With piped water supply reduced to just two days a week, many including children queue up at public tap in Nayandahalli in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

Traffic signal batteries stolen

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city police registered a case of theft after six batteries installed at the signal lights of Hosa Road and Konappana Agrahara were found to be stolen on Tuesday. The theft came to light when K.C. Krishnayya, SI attached to Electronic City P.S., went for inspection and found that both the junctions were out of order and the batteries were missing. The theft reportedly occurred between 10 p.m. on February 8 and 6 a.m. on February 9.

The stolen items worth ₹50,000 were installed to regulate and operate street lighting systems in Honnasandra and Konnappana Agrahara villages, the complainant, said.

Case registered over fake mail intending to disrupt Army fireman recruitment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The East Division Cybercrime police have initiated investigations to track down the person who attempted to mislead candidates appearing for the post of Fireman at the Ministry of Defence (Army), 515 Army Base Workshop (ABW), Ulsoor, by circulating fake emails claiming that the recruitment dates had been postponed.

The fraud came to light when one of the candidates approached the Army office to clarify about the mail he had received. According to the complaint, Col. Jyothirlingam S.S., security officer for the commandant and managing director of the Army base workshop, the recruitment process is scheduled to be held from February 13 to 15.

According to him, admit cards were issued to all eligible candidates, and an official email was sent on January 12 from the authorised email ID informing candidates about the recruitment schedule.

However, on February 7, a candidate, identified as Dilip Kumar Meena, informed a Civil Defence employee of the unit that he had received an email stating that the Fireman recruitment had been postponed from February 15 to February 22, citing technical reasons. The email was sent from a fake email ID closely resembling the official address. Preliminary inquiry revealed that multiple candidates received the email. The police suspect that the email was meant to mislead the candidates and prevent their participation in the recruitment process.

Officials termed the act as a serious and deliberate attempt to interfere with the recruitment procedure. Following the incident, the unit issued a clarification email to all Fireman post candidates, informing them about the fake email ID and reiterating that the recruitment will proceed as scheduled from February 13 to 15.

An FIR has been registered against unknown persons under relevant sections of the Information Technology Act and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Earlier this week, the same office unearthed an exam malpractice, and 18 candidates were held for using electronic gadgets to cheat during a recruitment examination conducted at the 515 Army Base Workshop, Halasuru last Saturday.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, FEB. 13		
RISE	06:43	SET 18:25
RISE	03:22	SET 14:48
SATURDAY, FEB. 14		
RISE	06:42	SET 18:25
RISE	04:13	SET 15:43
SUNDAY, FEB. 15		
RISE	06:42	SET 18:25
RISE	05:01	SET 16:37

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	31	16
Bengaluru	28	15

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2026
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Childhood cancer cases see steady rise in State; 1,882 estimated cases in 2025

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Karnataka is witnessing a gradual year-on-year rise in childhood cancer cases, underscoring the growing burden of paediatric malignancies in the State.

According to data from the State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (KMIO), Karnataka's estimated new cancer cases among children and adolescents in 2025 stood at 1,882, up from 1,801 in 2023 and 1,828 in 2024.

Of the 1,882 estimated cases in 2025, Bengaluru has contributed an estimated 349 cases, reflecting an upward trajectory over the years.

In 2023, Karnataka recorded 1,801 childhood cancer cases - 938 boys and 863 girls. The following year saw a rise to 1,828 cases, with 952 boys and 876 girls.

The estimated 2025 figures show a further increase, with 966 boys and 916 girls, indicating sustained growth in incidence across the State, said Naveen T., director (additional charge) at Kidwai.

Year-wise childhood cancer cases in Karnataka

2023
1,801 cases (938 boys; 863 girls)
2024
1,828 cases (952 boys; 876 girls)
2025
1,882 cases (966 boys; 916 girls)

Bengaluru's burden
2023
328 cases (167 boys; 161 girls)
2024
338 (173 boys; 166 girls)
2025
349 cases (178 boys; 171 girls)

Doctors say childhood cancers make up about 2.1% of all new cancers detected annually in Karnataka, where roughly 89,215 new cancer cases were recorded in 2025. FILE PHOTO

About 2.1%
Speaking to *The Hindu*, ahead of the International Childhood Cancer Day (ICCD) observed on February 15, Dr. Naveen said that childhood cancers make up about 2.1% of all new cancers detected annually in Karnataka, where roughly 89,215 new cancer cases were recorded in 2025.

Of the 1,882 estimated cases in 2025, Bengaluru has contributed an estimated 349 cases

"In Bengaluru, children are estimated to account for 2.1% of the city's total cancer burden, with around 16,376 new cases detected in 2025 of which 349 are childhood cancers," he said.

In Bengaluru, 328 cases were recorded in 2023 (167 boys and 161 girls) and 338 in 2024 (173 boys and 166 girls).

The estimated 349 cases (178 boys; 171 girls) for 2025 reflect a gradual increase in reporting.

"While absolute numbers are small compared with adult cancers, the increasing trend calls for urgent attention," he pointed out.

Kidwai's burden
At KMIO, the State's apex Regional Cancer Centre, paediatric cancer caseloads remain significant. In 2024, the institute recorded 648 childhood cancer cases and 74 deaths, while in 2025 it reported 590 new cases and 37 deaths.

Arun Kumar A.R., professor and head of Paediatric Oncology at Kidwai, attributed improved outcomes to early referrals, timely diagnosis, prompt initiation of chemotherapy, comprehensive supportive care and intensive management.

Leukaemia most common
Highlighting patterns and challenges, Dr. Kumar said leukaemia continues to be the most common childhood cancer, accounting for over 40% of cases in boys and more than one-third in girls.

This is followed by lymphomas, tumours of the brain and nervous system, bone cancers and kidney cancers. Brain tumours are slightly more frequent among girls, Dr. Kumar noted.

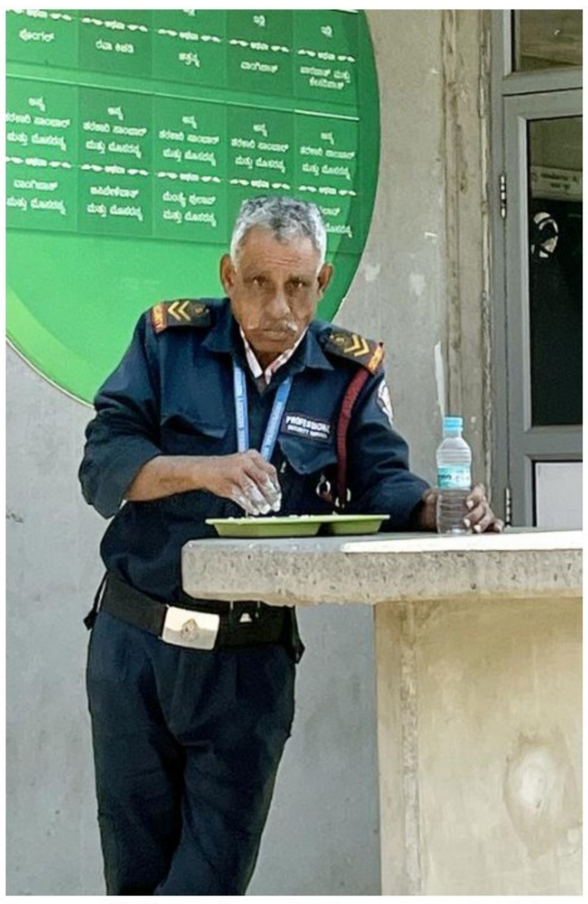
Dr. Kumar said that despite advancements in treatment, children in low- and middle-income countries still face hurdles such as delayed diagnosis, interruptions in therapy, and treatment abandonment. "With early detection and uninterrupted treatment, more than 70% of childhood cancers are curable," he said.

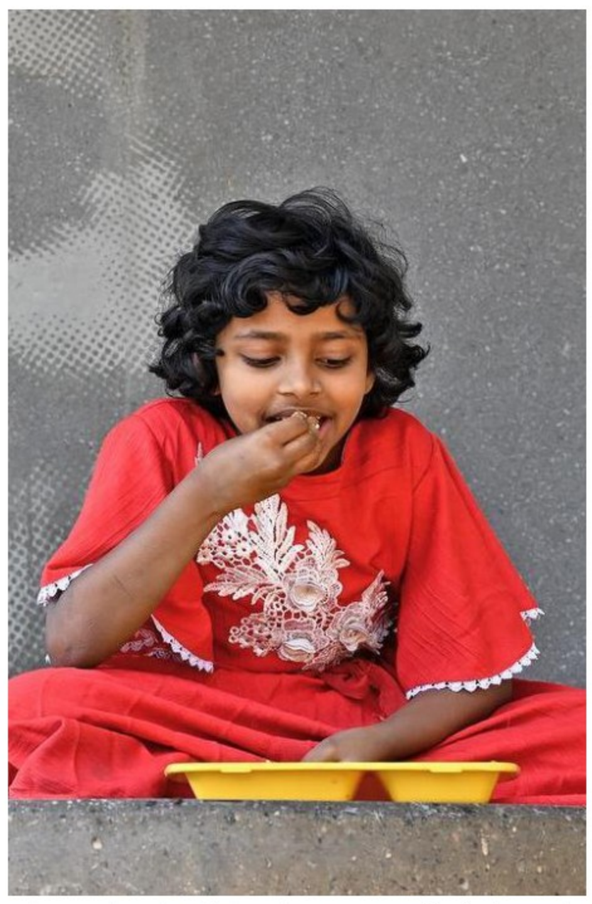
Warning signs
He urged parents to look out for warning signs including persistent unexplained fever, unusual swellings, unexplained pallor, easy bruising or bleeding, headaches with vomiting, prolonged fatigue, sudden weight loss, a white reflex in the eye, enlarged lymph nodes and night sweats.

"Early diagnosis and timely intervention improve survival chances," Dr. Kumar stressed.

Marking ICCD under the theme "Demonstrating Impact: From Challenge to Change," doctors emphasised the need for greater awareness, early referrals and equitable access to specialised paediatric oncology care to address the rising trend of childhood cancers across Karnataka.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath Chandrasekar (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X





The Indira Canteens, introduced to provide affordable, cooked meals to anyone, specifically targeting people who spend most of their day outside their homes such as daily wage workers, sanitation staff, construction workers, students, the elderly, and commuters navigating long work hours, promised hot, filling and nutritious meals served at fixed timings and in easily accessible public locations, such as bus stands, hospitals and markets. ALLEN EGENUSE J. AND SUDHAKARA JAIN

How Indira Canteens lost flavour

A flagship programme of the Congress to provide affordable and regular meals for all, Indira Canteens today are a shadow of their former selves despite repeated promises of revival, writes **Rishita Khanna**

It is breakfast time, around 7.30 a.m. Gangamma and Nagalakshmi, who work as pourakarmikas (civic workers), are among the many waiting outside the Indira Canteen located next to the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Majestic metro station in Bengaluru.

The canteen is open, but the food has not arrived yet. Between this Indira Canteen and Majestic bus stand on the other side, lies a heap of garbage – plastic covers, leftover food, damp waste. Partially cleared, but not enough to ignore.

When breakfast finally arrives, *bisi bele bath* and *pongal*, it is served quickly. Filling meals that workers, like Nagalakshmi, say give them enough energy to last until their shifts end at 11 a.m.

Nagalakshmi, a sanitation worker who eats at the canteen along her daily work route, ate in quick mouthfuls, checking the time on her phone between bites. She had about eight minutes, she said, before moving on to cleaning Gandhinagar, and then rushing to catch a bus to her home at D.J. Halli.

Every day, she relies on this canteens to fit a meal into her work schedule and budget. Designed as a universal scheme rather than a targeted welfare scheme, the canteens offer breakfast at ₹5, and lunch and dinner at ₹10.

People at the Indira Canteen in Benson Town, in Bengaluru. One of the persistent criticisms of Indira Canteens has been the limited nutritional value of the food served. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

While workers like Nagalakshmi do rely on these canteens daily, many are not convinced of their reliability.

An auto driver, when asked if he ever ate at these canteens, shook his head, saying "Why take the risk?" He had never even tried the food, he said, because he had 'heard' too many stories about poor quality rice, finding worms in pulses, and about kitchens being unhygienic.

This perception is a far cry from the reputation enjoyed by Indira Canteens in the early days.

Promise of universal access

Indira Canteens were introduced by the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government in Karnataka in August 2017 as an urban food security measure, to provide affordable, cooked meals to anyone, specifically targeting people who spend most of their day outside their homes – daily wage workers, sanitation staff, construction workers, students, the elderly, and commuters navigating long work hours and rising food costs.

The canteens promised hot, filling and nutritious meals served at fixed timings and in easily accessible public locations, such as bus stands, hospitals and markets.

During the launch at Jayanagar, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi had breakfast at the Indira Canteen, and stated that even the 'poorest and weakest' in the country must not go hungry. In 2024, in his second tenure as Chief Minister, Siddaramaiah inaugurated the Indira Canteen at Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru and tried the food with his Cabinet colleagues.

An urban need

The canteens addressed a real urban need – highly subsidised meals for people whose workdays are long and physically demanding. That need has only grown, but, over the years, a combination of delayed payments, staffing shortage, unreliable operations, and gaps between announcements and implementation, have weakened the scheme's ability to function consistently.

> The food is not consistent in quality or taste. One day the *sambar* is thick, the next day, it is watery
>
> **SELVARAJ P.**
> a regular

During our visit to 12 Indira Canteens across Bengaluru, we observed people of very different occupations, age groups and income levels accessing these canteens regularly because the prices and availability accommodate even the most financially constrained.

With an average of at least 400 persons visiting each Indira Canteen daily, as per data from Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), maintaining consistency in hygiene, nutrition and food preparation cannot be an option.

Over the past three months, West City Corporation has received around 30 complaints related to quality of the food and hygiene, while the other four corporations – South, North, East and Central – reported an average of three to five complaints per month.

Nutrition gap

One of the persistent criticisms of Indira Canteens has been the limited nutritional value of the food served. While the meals are affordable and filling, they are cereal-heavy, with rice forming the bulk of the menu, and very little in the way of protein or dietary diversity.

You can see the dominance of rice across meals – *bisi bele bath* and *pulav* for breakfast; rice with sambar and curd rice for lunch; and flavoured rice, generally *chitranna* (lemon rice), and rice with *rasam* for dinner. On some days, *khara bath* is offered as one of the two breakfast options, or *ragi mudde* (millet ball) is added at lunch alongside rice, but the overall composition continues to be heavily skewed towards carbohydrates.

In Tamil Nadu, Amma Canteens follow a menu that routinely includes lentils, fermented foods and dairy along with cereals. Even in Rajasthan, Annapurna Rasoi, which offers a meal for ₹8, serves a fixed menu that includes rotis or rice, dal and cooked vegetables, with pulses and vegetables being a part of every meal.

This, public health experts like Dr. Sylvia Karpagam argue, contrasts with Karnataka's approach in its mid-day meal programme. Over the years, the State has introduced eggs to address protein deficiency among schoolchildren, recognising that cereal-based meals alone are nutritionally inadequate. Eggs are now part of the menu in many government schools, with alternatives such as bananas or chikkis offered where eggs are not consumed.

That recognition, however, has not extended to Indira Canteens. Despite serving adults, senior citizens and daily-wage workers, who often depend on these meals as their only assured food of the day, there has been no move to introduce basic nutritional add-ons, such as buttermilk, ragi malt or eggs, even as optional top-ups, she pointed out.

At the time of its launch in 2017, Indira Canteens had a menu that included *khara bath*, *pongal*, *puliyogare*, *chitranna* and *bisi bele bath* for breakfast, while lunch and dinner centred on rice with *sambar* and curd rice. The structure of the menu remains largely unchanged. The meals continue to be predominantly rice-based across breakfast, lunch and dinner.

In 2023, after the Siddaramaiah-led government came back to power, items such as bread and jam, and Mangaluru buns were proposed to be added to the breakfast menu, but the proposal was not implemented. The notable addition, in practice, has been the inclusion of *ragi mudde* at lunch.

Not just about a meal

While mixing rice with *sambar* on his plate, Selvaraj P., 72, complained that the food is often served cold, and that the *sambar* usually has no vegetables. He has been eating at the Indira Canteen at Rajajinagar ever since he lost his wife in September 2018. His first visit, he recalled, was on a Sunday in the same year, the only day in the week the canteen serves *kesari bath* along with *khara bath* for breakfast.

Over the years, the canteen became part of his daily routine. "The food is cheap, and I made a few friends during my visits to the canteen," he said, referring to a group of elderly men he eats with most mornings. But the quality, he added, has declined. "The food is not consistent in quality or taste. One day the *sambar* is thick, the next day, it is watery," he said.

Selvaraj further gestured towards the open space where people stood eating, and added that even a bench or two would make a difference for people of his age.

Access, proximity to workplace or dwelling, affordability and the social ease of eating alongside others are all factors that make Indira Canteens important for the likes of Selvaraj.

Safe places for working women

Beyond nutrition and pricing, spaces like Indira Canteens have also come to occupy a major role in the public life, particularly for working women in labour-intensive and informal jobs.

Mumtaz Mehrum, a garment factory worker, points to the row of small food stalls she passes on her 1.3-kilometre walk from the Indira Canteen at Mahadevapura to her workplace. "After 8.30 p.m., the places we can afford are usually packed with men," she said, adding that a place like Indira Canteen gives shelter and a safe space to eat at minimal cost.

At the same time, Indira Canteens provide relief for women who carry a disproportionate burden when it comes to feeding their families.

For women like Nagalakshmi, whose day begins at 5 a.m. and is split between paid labour and household responsibilities, breakfast at the Indira Canteen eases a significant portion of her daily load, she said.

Footfall is highest in the morning

In fact, breakfast sees the highest footfall in these canteens.

At the Indira Canteen near Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), breakfast is served to around 1,600 people every day, with cab and bus drivers forming a large part of the patrons. Across other wards and kitchens in Bengaluru, the average breakfast turnout ranges between 280 and 300 people per day, while dinner sees a smaller crowd of 75 to 90, according to GBA figures.

Repetitive menu, repetitive problems

A man who works at one of the Indira Canteens gestures as he pours *sambar*, highlighting that the broth is thin. "Besides, the food is repetitive. Even we are tired of serving the same thing every day. People sometimes ask if there will be something different, or what kind of rice is being served that day, but even we don't know until the food arrives from the central kitchen," he added.

He believes breakfast could be improved, noting that the canteen sees its highest footfall between 7.30 a.m. and 10 a.m. "If lunch and dinner are repetitive, at least breakfast should have variety. Our customers specifically ask for *dosa*, *idli* and *pongal*. The menu should be decided after consulting the beneficiaries," he said.

A server at the canteen near Majestic said, "This is not a restaurant, it's a government kitchen. What can you expect? People eat here only because they have no other option. The government knows this."

Starved of funds

The core problem behind many of the concerns raised about Indira Canteens lies in the budget. In its early years, the programme received substantial State funding – ₹100 crore in 2017-18, which increased to around ₹145 crore the following year to support rapid expansion across Bengaluru and other urban centres. At the launch, the then Food Minister U.T. Khader had promised that the canteens would serve better food than Tamil Nadu's Amma Canteens with no compromise on quality.

After 2019, the BJP government was accused of 'starving' the programme of funds, leaving the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to scrape by with meagre resources. By the 2022-23 budget, just ₹60 crore was earmarked for Indira Canteens, a fraction of the original allocation.

When Siddaramaiah returned to power in 2023, there was hope that the programme he had once championed would finally see the revival it deserved. While he spoke of revival, kitchens remain underfunded and under-maintained.

When Indira Canteens were launched in 2017, the plan was to establish one outlet in each of Bengaluru's 198 wards, combining with mobile units in areas where space was not readily available. In the first phase, 18 mobile 'canteens on wheels' were introduced to serve meals near bus stands, hospitals and other high-footfall public spaces. At its peak, the network grew to include around 174 permanent canteens and over 20 mobile units across Bengaluru.

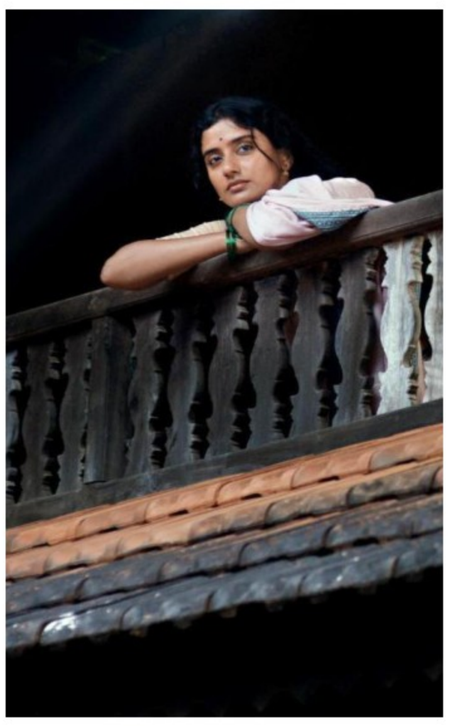
However, not all of them functioned consistently over the years, with several units becoming irregular due to funding and operational constraints. At present, more than 190 Indira Canteens are operational in Karnataka. In 2024, the Chief Minister had announced addition of 50 more canteens in Bengaluru at an estimated cost of ₹220 crore, with the cost being shared between the State and the erstwhile BBMP.

Glimmer of hope for revival

The possibility of a potential revival of Indira Canteens through renewed corporation funding is one option. Under the newly-formed GBA, five city corporations will, for the first time, prepare separate budgets. Corporation Commissioners have acknowledged that many canteens need more than infrastructural upgrades. They also need improvements to their menu to better serve users. There is some hope that the upcoming State Budget would focus on this flagship scheme.

A view of Indira canteen at Chamarajpet in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Dream debut Bengaluru-based composer Sumedh says he is overwhelmed by all the attention he has been getting. A still from the single, 'Thulasi' (below). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Young composer strikes gold

Sumedh K, who made a splash as a composer for the Kannada hit film *Su From So*, on his latest single, 'Thulasi', which has gained a jaw-dropping 2.8 million views

Vivek MV
vivek.mv@thehindu.co.in

Sumedh K watches films, shows, and goes out with friends, as most 21-year-olds do. But not many, especially in the Kannada film industry, start as young as this music composer. It turned out to be a dream debut for the Bengaluru boy as his songs were one of the pillars of the 100-crore box office show of *Su From So* in 2025.

Apart from cinema, Sumedh has made an impression in the Kannada independent music space with *Thulasi,* a soulful song based on the verses of Purandara Dasa. It has been two weeks since the video was released on YouTube, and it has raced to 2.8 million views, and counting. "It's not fair to say I am disturbed, but I am definitely overwhelmed," Sumedh tells *The Hindu* about the continuous attention on him over the last few months. "I agree that music has become a semi-occupation. Yet, I still see it as a hobby," adds Sumedh, who is pursuing a User Experience Design course at RV College.

Thulasi was born out of Sumedh's immense respect for Purandara Dasa, the legendary composer hailed as the father of Carnatic music. "I am glad that a music video was made out of my song," says Sumedh, thanking the production companies Rectangle Film Productions and Lightbucket Productions.

"It was a collaborative process, and there was no ego involved. It's great to see how people have responded. Many have mistaken this to be produced by a film production team, looking at the superior quality of the video. I am thankful to all those who made this happen."

The success of *Thulasi* has put focus on the Kannada indie music scene. Sumedh feels there is a shift in attitude required to succeed in the genre. "The way we approach independent music in Karnataka has to change. People want to make a video, and for that purpose, they want a song."

"The issue here is that they are approaching indie music as films. Music videos should be made after the song is composed. The video must be a visual representation of the music. Independent music is a lonely effort. You are making music from things that have influenced you. It is an honest expression, and you aren't even thinking if this will work with the audience," adds the youngster, who loves listening to Indian fusion bands such as Agam and Thaikkudam Bridge.

Thulasi spurred a passionate and acrimonious discussion on social media, thanks to the presence of Sanskrit words in the song. The chatter led to the argument of how Kannada has its own ancient history and grammar, and how it is not derived from Sanskrit. "I didn't claim that Sanskrit is the mother of Kannada. What bothered me were the people who said Purandara Dasa's songs had 'too much Sanskrit'. I felt it was a malicious attack on the cultural treasure we have. If we go on doing this, we will lose everything we treasure."

"Simplification of language is important. But I don't agree when you say you will remove everything and purify a language. Culturally, we have borrowed from various languages. Languages aren't static entities. They are dynamic and evolve. You can't look at languages as a lab experiment." The episode has taught Sumedh not indulge in discourse on social media. "I should let my work speak."

From 2020, Sumedh has released several singles on *Instagram and YouTube,* gradually building a following for his work. His song 'Daaha' impressed filmmaker-actor Raj B Shetty, who approached Sumedh for *Su From So.* "He is very sorted as a person. He understands that music is a collaborative process and there is no room for patronising. He suggested several ideas in arrangements that worked well. Raj has a very good sense of music."

Su From So was set in the Dakshina Kannada region. The film's music had to reflect the rootedness of the setting.

"My inspiration for the music was existing material from the Mangaluru-Udupi region. I have enjoyed Rakshit Shetty's movies such as *Ulidavaru Kandante* and *Avane Srimannarayana*. So, I was exposed to the cultural aspects of the region through these movies. I was mindful that my work doesn't become an imitation of what was already out there. I used percussion instruments to provide an authentic feel to the viewers."

Sumedh is quite clear about taking it step by step in his career. "There is an assumption that I immediately want to work on multiple projects. It's too early in my life to take on plenty of projects. I will burn out."

> ***Independent music is a lonely effort. You are making music from things that have influenced you. You aren't even thinking if this will work with the audience.***
>
> **SUMEDH K**
> MUSIC COMPOSER

Smell the coffee

The India International Coffee Festival was created to bring the coffee ecosystem into one shared space, from coffee growers and brands to baristas and enthusiasts. The fest is on till February 14

Brew tales The India International Coffee Festival is underway in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Anagha Maareesha
anagha.maareesha@thehindu.co.in

In the past decade in India, coffee has grown from being just a beverage, to an entire lifestyle and passion for many. The paraphernalia, sourcing of the beans, grinding techniques – are all taken very seriously. "India's coffee industry is at a defining moment," says Hamsini Appadurai, president of the Speciality Coffee Association of India (SCAI), who are organising the upcoming India International Coffee Festival (IICF) in Bengaluru .

The event, which started on February 12 will go on till February 14, will include tastings, workshops, demos, barista, latte art championships and masterclasses. The festival is supported by Coffee Board of India and Nescafe, Nestlé India. Panel discussions and workshops are the main draw of the festival. Topics such as sustainability, agriculture, and alternative dairy will be touched upon. "The idea is simple: to connect how coffee is grown, processed, brewed, and finally enjoyed," says Hamsini.

India produces exceptional coffee, yet much of its story has traditionally remained fragmented, says Hamsini. "The festival brings farmers, roasters, exporters, baristas, brands, and consumers together to build understanding, trust, and opportunity across the value chain."

At its core, Hamsini says, IICF is about moving Indian coffee from being seen only as a commodity to being appreciated as a product of skill, origin, and culture. "It creates a platform for learning, business exchange, and celebration, while helping Indian coffee speak with a more confident, unified global voice."

Taste tests

The highlights of the festival this year include an innovation hub, that will showcase practical solutions across farming, processing, and café operations.

Sumit Choudhary from Kaapi Solutions will host an espresso brewing masterclass. "This session is designed to demystify espresso and make it approachable." Through guided tasting and live troubleshooting, Sumit says, the focus is on helping participants recognise what is happening in the cup and why.

Akshay Dashrath from the South India Coffee Company, coffee producers from Coorg, hosts a tasting workshop. "At our Alternative Species Tasting Workshop, participants will explore coffees far beyond the familiar world of arabica and robusta. Guests will taste rare species and cultivars, including Eugenioides, Racemosa, Excelsa, Liberica (Sarawak), and Laurina, while learning to identify key sensory notes like aroma, sweetness, acidity, and body."

Visitors can also experience the festival through a curated coffee trail, through experiential zones such as the roasters' village, growers' village and the brew bar as well as some cultural events.

From ₹499 upwards, at Chamara Vajra, Jayamahal, till February 14. Schedule of events on indiacoffeefestival.com

STEPOUT

Flights of fancy

Night N' Day Pollinators from the Western Ghats, a photographic exhibition by Arun Kumar Raj and Namratha Urs is underway. The exhibition showcases the vibrant world of moths and butterflies and seeks to educate viewers on the vital ecosystem services they offer.
At Chitrakala Parishath, till February 16, between 10am and 6pm. The exhibition is free and open to all.

Heart to heart

Author Prajwal Hegde will discuss her latest book *You Can't Be Serious* at two events this weekend. On February 13, she will be in conversation with Sharda Ugra at Higginbothams on MG Road from 6pm. On February 14, she will be at Atta Galatta in Indiranagar from 2.15pm discussing the book with Shinie Anthony.
Entry to both events free and open to all

Feast of love

Celebrate Valentine's Day with a special menu consisting of indulgent dishes, perfect for long conversations and sharing. Some of the offerings include miso butter prawn toast, sticky pineapple hoisin ribs, sharp, fiery arancini, pomegranate kiss fattoush, gajar halwa cheesecake and smoky chilli pumpkin.
At Suzy Q, Queens Road between January 13 and 15, From 12pm-12.30am. Call 08047250088 forreservations

Highlighting art

Mumbai-based Todywalla Auctions, one of the few licensed antique auction houses in the country, will showcase a selection of Indian art, including miniature paintings, stone and bronze sculptures, and precious-metal jewellery. An illustrated talk by S Murugan, a self-taught expert on classical South Indian art, will also be held .
At Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, between February 13 and 16, between 2-7pm on the 13th and 10am-7pm on the other days. The talk will be held on February 14, starting 5.30pm. For more information, contact 9819872202.

Grand Flea Market
Presents
LAST 3 DAYS
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ಸವ
Bengaluru Utsava
(Art, Craft, Handlooms & Lifestyle Exhibition)
Date: 6th February 2026 to 15th February 2026
Timing: 10:30 AM - 8:30 PM
Venue:
SHUBH CONVENTION CENTRE (SHUBH ROYALE)
#46, 6TH MAIN, PUTTENAHALLI, KOTHANUR DINNE MAIN ROAD, OPP TO BRIGADE MILLENNIUM, 7TH PHASE, J P NAGAR, BENGALURU - 78
Contact: 8073505441 / 6364685716
10 Days Exhibition Entry Free
60+ Shopping Stalls | 30+ Craftsman | Entry & Parking Free

SINCE • 1937
ಪಾಮಡಿ ಜ್ಯೂವೆಲ್ಲರ್ಸ್ ಸಿಲ್ವರ್ ಪ್ಯಾಲೆಸ್
PAMADI JEWELLERS SILVER PALACE
' Made with love, forever Remembered '
30th Anniversary offer
30% to 100% off on VA (Applicable on 916 Gold ornaments)
100% off on VA (Silver Articles)
*T&C Apply
JOIN OUR GOLD SAVING SCHEME
Valid from FEB 1st to FEB 28th
Visit us : No.120, Dr. D.V.G Road. Basavaanagudi. Bengaluru, Karnataka 560004
Ph: 080 2661 3771 | 2667 2576, Mob: +91 94806 11257
Timings :10.30 am to 8.15pm | TUESDAY HOLIDAY

Leadership change: Congress high command in no mood to take a call?

Shivakumar has been meeting key members of the party's central leadership and close associates of the Gandhi family, seeking to impress upon them the need to honour the 'pact' reached at the time of government formation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Despite repeated efforts by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar to persuade the Congress high command to implement the reported "power-sharing formula", said to be agreed upon when the government was formed in May, 2023, the party leadership appears to be in no mood to take a decision for the time being.

Mr. Shivakumar, who has been aspiring to become the Chief Minister after completion of the halfway mark of the government's tenure, has been meeting key members of the party's central leadership and close associates of the Gandhi family, seeking to impress upon them the need to honour the "pact" reached in the presence of senior leaders at the time of government formation.

While Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi are believed to be sympathetic to D.K. Shivakumar, Rahul Gandhi has reportedly refrained from taking a call on the leadership change. FILE PHOTO

Differing views

While Ms. Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi, MPs, are believed to be sympathetic to Mr. Shivakumar, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has reportedly refrained from taking a call on the matter.

With Assembly elections approaching in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Assam, the party is said to be wary of any move that could trigger instability in Karnataka. Party sources indicate that displacing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah – a prominent OBC leader – could pose political challenges.

Mr. Shivakumar, who was on a three-day visit to New Delhi, met members of the Gandhi family on Thursday and is understood to have discussed political developments in Karnataka.

However, the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president declined to divulge details of the discussions.

"We are not here to discuss politics on the streets. We met our high command and discussed what needed to be discussed," he told reporters in Delhi. He said that he had, of course, come to the national capital "to discuss political matters, not just to breathe the Delhi air."

> When politicians meet, won't politics be discussed? I discussed Karnataka along with Assam and Delhi
>
> **D.K. SHIVAKUMAR,** Deputy Chief Minister

Assam, Delhi too

Mr. Shivakumar further confirmed that he had met Mr. Rahul Gandhi and Ms. Priyanka Gandhi, besides AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge, AICC general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal, and Karnataka in charge Randeep Singh Surjewala. "When politicians meet, won't politics be discussed? I discussed Karnataka along with Assam and Delhi," he said.

Maintaining that "success comes with effort", he said: "We have not discussed that issue (power-sharing).

The party has its own goals. Our leaders will take a suitable decision, keeping in mind the interests of the party, the State, and the country. The media is giving it a different colour".

When told that he had shown considerable patience, Mr. Shivakumar responded, "Patience always pays."

Referring to a statement by the Chief Minister's son Yathindra Siddaramaiah dismissing the possibility of a leadership change, Mr. Shivakumar sarcastically said: "We have to accept what he says. He is our high command".

Endless speculation

Speculation over a power-sharing arrangement has persisted since the Congress government crossed the halfway mark in November last year. The debate has been further fuelled by statements from party legislators loyal to both leaders.

BJP links legislators' foreign trip to leadership tussle and urges Speaker to stop it

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Questioning the propriety of some Congress legislators embarking on a foreign tour at a time when the State Budget is being prepared, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok on Thursday suspected that they were going abroad to take a call on the leadership tussle in the Congress government. He urged Speaker U.T. Khader to intervene and stop the tour.

> If the legislators were going on a foreign trip, members from all parties used to be included in the delegation. If the Minister is taking only some along, how did the government give permission?
>
> **R. ASHOK,** Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly

Why not all parties?

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, Mr. Ashok referred to Animal Husbandry Minister K. Venkatesh taking a team of Congress legislators on a foreign trip.

"If the legislators were going on a foreign trip, members from all parties used to be included in the delegation. If the Minister is taking only some along, how did the government give permission? The Speaker should stop this," he said.

Ridiculing the legislators' statement that they were going on a study tour by bearing the expenses themselves, he questioned what kind of study was being done and why personal money was being spent on it. "If a study is done, a report must be submitted to the government afterwards," he said.

Suspecting that the foreign trip was related to the leadership tussle, Mr. Ashok alleged that the Congress legislators were going on foreign trips for fun when the government hospitals did not have money to buy even medicines.

He alleged that the government was trying to cover up alleged corruption in the Excise Department. He questioned Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's silence though the State government had not ordered any investigation into the allegations.

Suresh's statement

Mr. Ashok maintained that Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar's brother D.K. Suresh had raised a banner of revolt now by saying that power was being given by the Congress to those who "came from other parties." Original Congress members had become directionless, he said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

'Set aside ₹10,000 crore for backward classes'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Backward Classes Federation has urged the State government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to set aside ₹10,000 crore in the State Budget for 2026-27.

In a memorandum submitted to Mr. Siddaramaiah, it also demanded increasing the OBC quota from the present 32% to 50% after receiving the Madhusudan Committee report on the Social and Educational Survey.

Office-bearers of the federation held a meeting with the Chief Minister and sought allocation of ₹1,000 crore to the Devaraj Urs Development Corporation in the coming State Budget. The federation placed 38 demands related to education and economic empowerment of the backward castes before the government.

'Giving 2.2 lakh digital title deeds in unrecognised habitations in two years is a record for Karnataka'

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

As the government is gearing up to provide digital title deeds for properties of over 1.1 lakh families in unrecognised habitations in Karnataka, on February 14 in Haveri, it is set to create a record of sorts.

To mark 1,000 days

"We have already provided digital title deeds to over 1.1 lakh families in unrecognised habitations of the State last year and are set to provide certificates to another 1.1 lakh families now to mark completion of 1,000 days of our governance. Providing title deeds to 2.2 lakh families in unrecognised habitations in two years is a record. Also this is one of the largest numbers in the country," Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told *The Hindu*.

An estimated 10 to 12 lakh people are expected to benefit in the last two years owing to these measures. Possession certificates had been given to 1.08 lakh such families by the erstwhile BJP government. However, they were not the digital ones.

"These digital title deeds cannot be tampered with or lost. Under this drive, the government officials themselves have gone to the doorsteps of beneficiaries to identify them without asking them to apply for title deeds," he said.

"We are registering these title deeds with sub-registrars through absolute deeds. The beneficiaries will have to pay only the scanning charges. In addition to this, the beneficiaries will also get e-swathu – creation of a title in the panchayat records in their name. This is the absolute completion of their ownership process," the Minister maintained.

Not recognised

"These are habitations that existed for 30 to 100 years, but never had recognition of a village. They do not exist on any government record. Since they are not part of official records, it was not possible as per norms to provide them any public infrastructure like hospitals and schools or civic amenities. However, on humanitarian grounds, such facilities were being given in the last decade by violating the norms," the Minister explained.

The State had 6,500 unrecognised habitations when the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964, was amended to declare them as revenue villages in 2016. Of them, 1,557 were declared as revenue villages till May, 2023. In the last two-and-a-half years, another 3,000 habitations have been given recognition. Similar measures are in the pipeline for another 1,300 habitations, the Minister noted.

Two-day event on dam safety from today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A two-day international conference on dam safety will be held on February 13 and 14 at the J.N. Tata Auditorium, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru. The conference is being jointly organised by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti and the Karnataka Department of Water Resources.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the conference, while Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds the Water Resources portfolio, will preside over the inaugural session.

The event will bring together international and national experts, policymakers, engineers, researchers and academicians for discussions and workshops on dam safety. As many as 25 experts from 10 countries are expected to participate. Around 46 research papers will be presented during the two-day conference.

According to Mr. Shivakumar, the conference is being organised to mark 1,000 days of the Congress government in the State.

Repair of dams

The Minister said ₹1,500 crore has been allocated for repair works and safety measures for 58 dams in Karnataka.

He noted that ₹10,211 crore has already been spent on 733 dams across 19 States with financial assistance from the World Bank and other financial institutions.

India has 6,628 dams, of which 231 are located in Karnataka. More than 75% of the dams in the country are over 25 years old, he added.

इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक
Indian Overseas Bank
आपकी प्रगति का सच्चा साथी Good people to grow with
Information Technology Department
Central Office: 763, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002

Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:

GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL - SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF NVIDIA L40S 48GB VRAM GPU SERVERS AND X86 SERVERS.

BID NO: GEM/2026/B/7219844 DATED 10.02.2026

The Above RFP tender document is available and can be downloaded from the following websites **www.iob.bank.in** & **www.gem.gov.in** For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website **www.gem.gov.in**

The Managing Director on behalf of
TAMIL NADU TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
Notice inviting Bids for the work as detailed in table below in
"TWO BID SYSTEM (LUMP SUM CONTARCT)"
e-Tender Notice Reference No. HOTTDC/11/2026-ENGG(CIVIL) Dt: 11.02.2026

S. No.	Name of work	Earnest Money Deposit (in Rs.)
1	Development with tourist infrastructures at Poompuhar Phase-III of Mayiladuthurai district, Tamil nadu.	Rs.16,07,000/- (Rupees Sixteen Lakhs and Seven Thousand Only)
2.	Date & Time for getting tender document	i) Last date and time for online issue of bid documents is upto 03.00 P.M on 20.02.2026 ii) The bidding document may also be downloaded from the website https://tntenders.gov.in/
3.	Time/Date of receipt/ opening of bids	I) Last date and time for submission of Bid documents along with EMD upto 3.00 P.M. on 20.02.2026 ii) Opening of bids will be on 20.02.2026 at 3.30 P.M.
4.	Address for Communications	The Managing Director,Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation,No.2, Wallajah Road, Tourism Complex, Chennai Tamil Nadu - 600 002,India Website: www.ttdconline.com Email: pe.ttdc@gmail.com Phone: 044-2533 3555

DIPR/975/TENDER/2026 MANAGING DIRECTOR

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
Municipal Corporation Amritsar

Tender Reference No. E-Tender Notice No. 160 Date 11.02.2026

The Department of	: Municipal Corporation, Amritsar Invite Bid for the Work namely "Empanelment of Contractors for the execution of urban road development, strengthening, beautification and 5 years maintenance under Municipal Corporation Amritsar".
Closing Date and Time	: 26.02.2026 upto 03:00 PM
EMD	: 2% of Estimate Amount
For Detail log onto	: https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
Note	: Any Corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.

Superintending Engineer(c), Municipal Corporation, Amritsar
1086/12/2025-26/8219

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

B.MOHANARANGAM (87), Retired Senior Supervisor (Platemaking), THE HINDU, Chennai passed away on 12-February-2026. Address : Door No: 2, Bhakkiyammal Street, Bharathiar Nagar, Pattabiram, Chennai-600072. Contact: 9841461637

In loving memory of

Mrs. Lakshmi Devi Chokhani
24.10.1951 - 06.02.2026
(W/o.Late Bhagwati Prasad Chokhani)
Baithak On
14.2.2026 from 4pm - 6pm
T-1, 3rd floor, Anderson Garden Apartments, N.No.8, O.No.30, Anderson Rd, Nungambakkam Chennai -600006
Fondly remembered by
Tejas, Uttara, Archana & Bharat
Anita - Jagdish Chokhani
Bharat : 9199435941

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981,
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Online booking: www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP)

BESCOM invites tenders through e-procurement platform from eligible Bidders vide Enquiry No. BESCOM/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT644/CALL-2 for "System Improvements Works like Replacement of Age Old LT Conductor by Rabbit/AB Cable, Providing additional DTCs/Enhancement of DTCs & Replacement of Deteriorated poles in identified SC/ST colonies in Kunigal, Huliyurdurga & Yediyur Sub Divisions of **Kunigal Division** of Tumkur Circle, BESCOM for a period of Four months on fixed price rate contract Partial Turnkey (AB Cable & Distribution Transformers supplied by BESCOM) Percentage quoted Basis."

Bid Documents will be available: on or after 13.02.2026. **Last date for Bid Submission:** 20.02.2026, 16:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document:** 21.02.2026, 16:30 Hrs.

The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal web-site https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (Ele.), Operations, BESCOM

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP

Government of Karnataka
Agricultural Marketing Department,
Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee, A.P.M.C. Yard,
Eeli Road, Sagara-577401, Shivamogga Dist.
No.: AMD/APMC(SAGARA)/Development/822/2025-26
Date: 09-02-2026

Short Tender Notice

The Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee has invited tenders as per e-Procurement (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from KW-3 eligible and Public Works Department registered civil contractors for the remaining part of the first-floor building (flooring, plastering, electrification, water supply & toilet) and other development works in the main market premises under the Annual Action Plan for the year 2024-25. Tender amount put for I.No-828, KW-3 tender: Rs. 55,55,000/- EMD: Rs. 1,11,100/-.

Last date for downloading and submitting documents is from 12-02-2026 to 27-02-2026. Duration to complete the work: 04 months (except rainy season). For further details, please contact the said office for information (Tel: 08183-295057 / 200170).

Sd/- Secretary, A.P.M.C., Sagara
Sd/- Administrator, A.P.M.C., Sagara

DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/83/02/1821

STATE INDUSTRIES PROMOTION CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED
19-A, RUKMANI LAKSHMIPATHY ROAD, EGMORE, CHENNAI-600 008.
CIN U74999TN1971SGC005967

(ONLINE ONLY)

Tender Notice NIT.No.62/CD/T.No.62/2025-26 Dt.12.02.2026

State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamilnadu (SIPCOT) invites a Request for Proposal from a reputed and experienced Project Management Consultant (PMC) for participating in the selection for the appointment of Project Engineer (Project Management Consultant-PMC) for the following work. The salient features of the project, description of Selection Process and the prescribed formats for submission can be accessed from RFP document uploaded on the website: **https//tntenders.gov.in.** The bid document can be downloaded only online from **16.02.2026 to 20.03.2026 upto 15.30 Hrs** and the bids will be opened online on **23.03.2026 at 15.30 Hrs.**

Name of Work	Approx. value of work	EMD
Appointment of Project Engineer (Project Management Consultancy – PMC) for Construction Management and Supervision, Including Third – Party Inspection and O&M for 15 Years for the proposed Development of 60 MLD Sea water Desalination Plant at Village Mullakkadu in Thoothukudi District – Tamilnadu on Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM), PPP Basis.	Rs. 34.01 Crores (Including GST @18%)	Rs.17,11,000/-*
* EMD should be paid through **eBG** only (as per list of banks attached in the Annexure – D in RFP).		
The tender schedule can be downloaded at free of cost from the website **https://tntenders.gov.in**		

DIPR/973/Tender/2026 MANAGING DIRECTOR

HC directs Karnataka govt. to set up Municipal Trust Property Management System

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Pointing out that public properties controlled by various municipalities are not maintained and protected as mandated by law, the High Court of Karnataka directed the State government to set up and operationalise a Municipal Trust Property Management System (MTPMS), as a single source of truth for all such properties across the State and assign a Trust Property Identification Number (TPIN).

Besides, the court directed that all municipalities under the Karnataka Municipalities (KMC) Act, 1964, will have to identify and prepare a comprehensive inventories of all "municipal properties" as defined under Section 81 of the KMC Act by correlating municipal and revenue records, land grant orders, and town planning documents within 90 days. The MTPMS should be integrated with other land related systems like Bhoomi, Mojini, e-municipalities, and Sakala portal, etc., the court said.

Court's directions

- Prepare comprehensive inventory of 'municipal properties' across the State
- Create Municipal Trust Property Management System to manage all of them.
- Assign Trust Property Identification Number to 'municipal properties'
- Identify municipal properties with geo-tagging using GIS tech
- Time-bound audits of past sales, leases, encroachments, and land use changes
- Provide a public portal for citizens to report misuse of 'municipal property'

Classify, grade

Stating that all identified "municipal properties" will have to be classified, risk-graded, physically demarcated on the ground, and geo-tagged using GIS technology, the court said revenue records, including Records of Rights, Tenancy and Crop (RTCs) and municipal records should clearly reflect classification as Municipal Trust Property and no alteration should be made without issuance of notice, conduct of enquiry and passing orders as per the law.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj issued the direction while disposing of a petition filed by Syed Matin Abbas against the Mysuru Deputy Commissioner's (DC) 2017 order of cancelling khata of property that his father had purchased in auction conducted by Town Municipal Council, Periyapatna, in 1977.

Audit and alienation

No "municipal property" coming under Section 81 of the Act, should be sold, leased, or otherwise alienated except in strict compliance with Section 72(2) of the Act, and with express Government approval, wherever such approval is required, as "municipal properties vest in the municipalities only in a fiduciary capacity as "trustee" and not as "absolute owner", the court made it clear.

While directing the government to set up two committees at the State and the district levels, the court has tasked the district level committees, to be headed by the respective DCs, to conduct time-bound audit of past sales, leases, grant, or transfers, encroachments or unauthorised constructions, and impermissible change of land use.

Stating that a public digital portal should be maintained displaying municipality-wise properties, and providing mechanisms for citizens to report encroachments or misuse of "municipal properties", the court said that responsibility should be fixed on officers found to have facilitated illegal alienation, encroachment, or misuse of "municipal properties" and disciplinary or other action should be initiated against them as per law.

'Fed up' with LDF and UDF, Kerala seeks NDA rule, says PM

Modi meets newly elected BJP local body representatives from Kerala in New Delhi, says the party is committed to working at grassroots level

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a meeting with elected BJP civic body representatives from Kerala in New Delhi. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said Kerala was disillusioned with the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and the United Democratic Front (UDF) and was looking to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led alliance with great hope. He said the party's elected representatives were committed to working at the grassroots to address the people's challenges.

The Prime Minister met panchayat, municipality, and corporation members from the Kerala BJP at his official residence. "At 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, hosted Kerala BJP Panchayat members, Municipality members and members of corporations from across Kerala, including the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, where the BJP was blessed with a historic mandate," Mr. Modi said through his X handle.

"Discussed a wide range of subjects, notably ways to deepen the BJP's connect with the people, further our good governance agenda and further 'Ease of Living'. It is clear that Kerala is fed up of LDF and UDF and is looking to BJP-NDA with great hope. Therefore, elected members from BJP-NDA will work at the grassroots and address the challenges faced by the people," said Mr. Modi.

The delegation of newly elected BJP councillors of the Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation, along with other civic body representatives from the State, led by Mayor V. V. Rajesh are in Delhi for a three-day administrative and governance skills development programme.

Prohibitory orders at counting centres in Malkajgiri, Cyberabad

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

In view of the counting of votes polled for municipal polls, scheduled for Friday, Malkajgiri and Cyberabad police commissionerates in Telangana have imposed prohibitory orders.

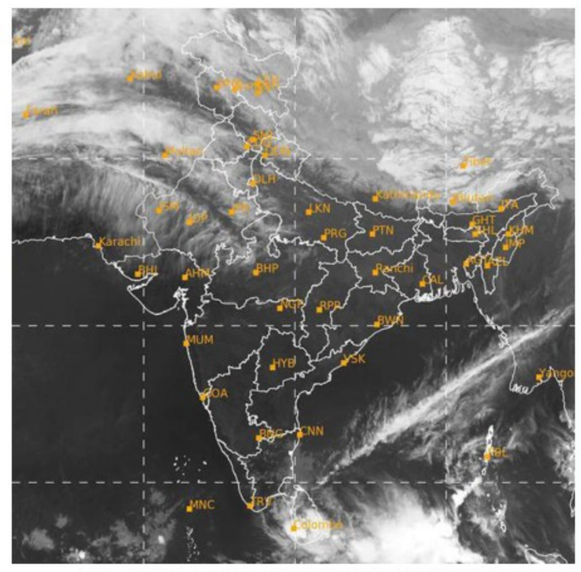
In the Malkajgiri Commissionerate, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), C.H. Sridhar, issued an order prohibiting the assembly of five or more persons within a 500-metre radius of a counting centreatJaganguda.

The restrictions will remain in force from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday.

In the Cyberabad Commissionerate, Serilingampally DCP, Ch. Srinivas, issued a similar order.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Dense fog likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh. Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over coastal Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.2	13.8	Kozhikode	—	35.4	24.1
Ahmedabad	—	32.7	18.6	Kurnool	—	33.8	18.0
Aizawl	—	27.7	13.6	Lucknow	—	27.0	12.1
Allahabad	—	30.4	12.4	Madurai	—	33.8	20.1
Bengaluru	—	29.4	14.4	Mangaluru	—	34.0	21.6
Bhopal	—	28.8	13.4	Mumbai	—	34.3	20.2
Bhubaneswar	—	33.7	16.5	Mysuru	—	30.0	15.0
Chandigarh	—	24.6	9.1	New Delhi	—	25.4	11.6
Chennai	—	31.0	21.6	Patna	—	27.0	14.8
Coimbatore	—	31.0	18.2	Port Blair	—	30.6	24.8
Dehradun	—	26.4	9.6	Puducherry	—	29.5	19.9
Gangtok	—	17.4	8.2	Pune	—	33.2	18.7
Goa	—	33.6	21.5	Raipur	—	32.2	18.1
Guwahati	—	29.4	14.5	Ranchi	—	26.4	10.0
Hubballi	—	32.0	16.0	Shillong	—	19.2	7.8
Hyderabad	—	30.4	18.3	Shimla	—	19.6	8.6
Imphal	—	27.1	5.9	Srinagar	—	13.5	3.0
Jaipur	—	27.8	15.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.8	21.8
Kochi	—	32.2	24.2	Tiruchi	—	30.9	19.4
Kohima	—	19.7	8.6	Vijayawada	—	31.2	19.0
Kolkata	—	28.6	15.3	Visakhapatnam	—	31.1	20.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	—	102	40	170	171	
Bengaluru	6	31	16	142	107	
Chennai	7	12	51	108	164	
Delhi	9	205	72	169	156	
Hyderabad	5	9	63	116	127	
Kolkata	8	118	40	245	165	
Lucknow	.17	.29	34	160	149	
Mumbai	.18	.75	48	136	135	
Pune	—	.76	36	213	177	
Visakhapatnam	.10	.87	15	127	180	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Pithampur, Madhya Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 283 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir recorded a healthy AQI score of 35

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Divl. Rly. Manager, N.W.Rly. Bikaner for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works up to **15:00 hours** on **05.03.2026** as below:- **1) Tender No.: 287-25-26. Name of Work with its Location:** Preparation of GIS Data (only back office work) of Plantation, Afforestation, Park, Green Areas, Grow More Food, Encroachment, Vacant Railway Land on Bikaner Division.. **Approx. cost of work:** ₹ 2378880.00. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 47,600.00. **2) E-Tender No.: 288-25-26. Name of Work with its Location:** Track works in connection with Removal of PSR-34 Nos curve in Sadulpur-Ratangarh-Napasar section. **Approx. cost of work:** ₹ 8,39,69,925.11. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 569900.00-.**Note:** Other term & condition will be shown on the website **www.ireps.gov.in** 222-AR/26

Follow us on : /NWRailways NWRailways_

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

For and on behalf of President of Republic of India, Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Construction-I) North Western Railway, Jaipur invites E-Tender for the following works upto 15.00 Hrs. on the mentioned date. **Tender No. EL/C/JP/PSI/ABR-TRAH/T/08-R/25-26. Name of work:** Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Railway Electrification work of 1X25KV PSI System in ABR-TRAH section of Ajmer Division, NWR in connection with New Line work. **Approximate cost of the work:** ₹ 16,92,14,412.00 **Earnest Money to be deposited:** ₹ 9,96,100.00 **Date of Completion of work:** 12 Months. **Date & Time of closing E-Tender: 07.03.2026** Upto **15-00** Hrs. **Date & Time of opening E-Tender: 07.03.2026** at **15.30** Hrs. The details of above E-Tender are available on Website: **www.ireps.gov.in** 225-AR/26

Follow us on : /NWRailways NWRailways_

PUBLIC NOTICE

General public are hereby informed that, our client Sri.Manjunath N., Residing at: No.37, 13th Cross, 7th Main, Srinidhi Layout, Konanakunte, Bengaluru, has lost original documents viz., 1) Sale deed dated 09-02-1981, registered as document No.11489/1980-81. 2) Agreement for Sale deed dated 03-10-2018, registered as document No.BSK-1-08910/2018-19, in respect of property bearing Sy.No.48, situated at Kaggalipura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore District, while taking Xerox copy of the same at Konanakunte. Our client had lodged an online police complaint on 12-02-2026, lost report No.2059546/2026. If anybody found the said document please contact this Nos. 9844155041, 9731297609.

V.S.Rai & Associates, LAW FIRM
No. 23, "Venkatadri", 2nd Floor,
6th Main, 5th Cross, Opp.Corporation School,
Sampangiramanagar,Bangalore - 560 027.
Mob:9844155041,Off:080-22223949.

PUBLIC NOTICE BEFORE PROPERTY PURCHASE

Notice hereby given to the General Public that my client has entered into an **advance purchase agreement dated 21-01-2026** for the purchase of the Scheduled Property described below from the vendor/seller **Shivamma A.B W/o Byregowda K. L.** and intends to verify the ownership and title of the owner of the Scheduled Property. If any Person/s, entity, firm, company or institution has or asserts any right, title or interest by way of sale, lease, tenancy, mortgage, charge, lien, easement, objection, damage, license, gift, inheritance, share possession, assignment, right of prescription or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any statute, injunction order or attachement or award passed by any Court or Authority, Pending litigation, lis-pendens decree or order of any adjudicating authority, exchage, partition, power of attorney, Will, bequest, FAR / FSI, development rights, claim, arrangement / settlement, allotment, acquisition, requisition, beneficial right / interest under any trust, demand or any other interest of whatsoever nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details and documents in support of such claim within15 (Fifteen) days from the date of this Notice, failing which it shall conclusively be presumed and deemed that the Owner has a clear and marketable title to the Schedule Property and that no one else has any right, title, interest, encumbrance or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property and claim/s if any, will be deemed to have been waived. Any claims or objections received after the stipulated period shall not be considered.

Schedule Property

All the part and parcel of Eastern Portion of the property measuring **30 X 40 feet out of the entire property 97 X 40 feet, East West 30'-0" feet, North South 40'-0" feet, total measuring 1200 square feet, carved out of land in Survey No. 14** as Item No. One of 'B' Schedule Property having Property No.1;A of Shivanahalli Village, in Corporation Division Old No. 2, subsequently No.11, BBMP Ward No. 107, (Present Bangalore West City Corporation Ward No. 64) **bearing Property No. 81/2/2/66/1 (Old Municipal No. 81/2-2), having B.B.M.P. P.I.D. No. 20-20-81/2/2/66/1, B.B.M.P. New E-PID No. 1242318064, 12th 'B' Main Road, Shivanahalli** (Present Shivanagar), Rajajinagar, Bangalore - 560010. with property including the building, bounded on:

East By: Shivanna's property,
West By: Shankarappa's remaining property,
North By: Site No. 3,
South By: 20 feet road.

Date: 12.02.2026
Place: Bangalore

Sd/-
P Udayashankar Rai,
Advocate
No.6, 1st Floor, Crescent road, Near Judicial Academy, High Grounds, Bangalore-560001, Mob: 9845597784

PEGASUS ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PRIVATE LIMITED
55-56, 5th Floor, Free Press House, Nariman Point
Mumbai - 400 021. Tel.: 022 61884700
E-Mail : sys@pegasus-arc.com, URL : pegasus-arc.com

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE BY E-AUCTION

Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rules 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower, Co Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors that the below described secured assets mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, being **M/s. Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Private Limited** acting in its capacity as Trustee of **PEGASUS GROUP THIRTY-NINE TRUST 2 (Pegasus),** having being assigned the dues of the below mentioned borrower along with underlying securities, interest by **RBL Bank Limited** vide Assignment Agreement **Dated 30-09-2021** under the provisions of SARFAESI Act,2002.

The Authorized officer of Pegasus has Physical possession of the below mentioned mortgaged property under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act and SARFAESI Rules. In view of the aforesaid the below mentioned mortgaged property will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis.**

The details of Auction are as follows :-

Name of the Borrower(s), Co-Borrower(s) and Mortgagors :	**1. M/s. Arfa Meraj Trading Company 2. M/s. HKGN And Company, 3. Mr. Javeedulla Khan, 4. Smt. Shazia Sultana**
Outstanding Dues for which the secured assets are being sold :	**Rs. 4,08,19,192.65 (Rupees Four Crore Eight Lakhs Nineteen Thousand and One Hundred and Ninety-Two and Sixty-Five Paisa Only) as on 03.05.2024** along with further interest at contractual rate and cost, charges and expenses thereon till the date of payment and realization.
Details of Secured Asset being Immovable Property which is being sold	Apartment No.: B – 003, having a super built up area of 3500 Square Feet along with 20% undivided share in land i.e., 872.5 Square Feet and Car Parking in the basement floor in the building known as "Govianu Grace Garden" Katha PID No. 92/31/2 formed in Property No. 8, New No.2, Benson Road, Benson Town, Bangalore. **Owned by Mr. Javeedulla Khan and Smt. Shazia Sultana Vide Registered Sale Deed Bearing No: 4829 of 2017-2018.**
CERSAI ID :	**Security Interest ID : 400032529856 Asset ID : 200032476596**
Reserve Price below which the Secured Asset will not be sold (In Rs.) :	**Rs.2,30,00,000.00 (Rupees Two Crores Thirty Lakhs Only)**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) :	**Rs. 23,00,000.00 (Rupees Twenty-Three Lakhs Only).**
Claims, if any, which have been put forward against the property and any other dues known to Secured creditor and value.	A notice has been affixed to the property by Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) claiming pending charges. The buyer needs to ascertain the same prior to submission of the bid and such charges shall be borne by the buyer.
Inspection of Properties :	**18.02.2026**
Contact Person and Phone No. :	**Bhaskar Sarat Turaga, (M) : 9902045750 Shankar Balasubramanian (M) : 8056178667**
Last date for submission of Bid :	**27.02.2026 till 4:00 PM**
Time and Venue of Bid Opening :	**E-Auction / Bidding through Website : (https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net) on 02.03.2026 from 10.00 AM to 11.00 AM.**

This publication is also a **Fifteen (15) days'** notice to the aforementioned Borrowers / Co-Borrowers / Guarantors/Mortgagors under Rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. For the detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to Secured Creditor's **Website i.e. http://www.pegasus-arc.com/assets-to-auction.html** or **Website : https://sarfaesi.auctiontiger.net** or contact the aforesaid contact person/s. You can also contact service provider **E Procurement Technologies Ltd. Auction Tiger Bidder Support Nos: 079-68136805 / 68136837 Mobile :+919265562821 & 9374519754, Email : vijay.shetty@auctiontiger.net, chintan.bhatt@auctiontiger.net, support@auctiontiger.net** for technical support before submitting any bid.

Authorised Officer
Date : 12.02.2026
Place : Bangalore
Pegasus Assets Reconstruction Pvt. Ltd. (in Its Capacity As Trustee Of Pegasus Group 39 Trust 2)

ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
NEW DELHI
Nursing Officer Recruitment Common Eligibility Test (NORCET) 10
Notice No.17/2026 Date: 24.02.2026
www.aiimsexams.ac.in

Online Application is invited for the Nursing Officer Recruitment Common Eligibility Test (NORCET) 10 for the recruitment of Nursing Officer posts at Level 07 in the Pay Matrix pre-revised Pay Band-2 of Rs.9300-34800 with Grade Pay of Rs.4600/-, Group-B for AIIMS New Delhi and other AIIMS as per available vacancies in the respective Institutes.

The On-line applications can be done through AIIMS web site www.aiimsexams.ac.in from 24.02.2026 to 16.03.2026 up to 5:00 P.M.

Eligibility Criteria for appearing in NORCET

Essential Qualification

I
a. B.Sc. (Hons.) Nursing / B.Sc. Nursing from an Indian Nursing Council/state Nursing council recognized Institute or University **OR** **B.Sc.** (Post-Certificate) / Post-Basic B.Sc. Nursing from an Indian Nursing Council/State Nursing council recognized Institute/ University.
b. Registered as Nurses & Midwife with State / Indian Nursing Council

OR

II
a. Diploma in General Nursing Midwifery from an Indian Nursing Council/State Nursing council recognized Institute / Board or Council
b. Registered as Nurses & Midwife in State / Indian Nursing Council.
c. Two Years' Experience in a minimum 50 bedded Hospital after acquiring the educational qualification mentioned above as applicable for all Participating AIIMS.

Remarks - The required two years of experience as in above is as an essential criterion and to be valid, the experience shall must be acquired after obtaining Essential Qualification, i.e. after completing residency period of the course, declaration of result & registration with State/Indian Nursing Council.

Age Limit: For all AIIMS: Between 18-30 Years. (As per detail on Age relaxation given in General Conditions subject to age Relaxation as per Recruitment rules of respective Institutes/Hospitals.)

All age shall be counted on the last date of closing of application form.

APPLICATION FEES:

A) General/OBC Candidates - Rs.3000/- (Rupees Three Thousand only)
B) SC/ST Candidates/EWS - Rs.2400/- (Rupees Twenty-Four Hundred only)
C) Persons with Disabilities - Exempted

The candidate can pay the prescribed application fee through DEBIT CARD/CREDIT CARD/ NETBANKING. Transaction / Processing fee, if any, as applicable, will be payable to the bank by the candidate.

Application fee once remitted shall not be refunded under any circumstances.

Applications without the prescribed fee would not be considered and summarily rejected.

Application Fees of SC/ST candidates who appear in the Examination will be refunded after declaration of results in due course of time after verification of SC/ST certificate.

Online (CBT) for Stage I: NORCET Preliminary, Date: 11th April, 2026 (Saturday),
Online (CBT) for Stage II: NORCET Mains, Date: 30th April, 2026 (Thursday)

Please visit AIIMS website www.aiimsexams.ac.in or respective participating Institute/Hospital to apply online & for detailed and latest information.

CBC 17112/12/0071/2526

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU | thehindu businessline | FRONTLINE | SPORTSTAR | The Hindu Young World | THE HINDU

ಪಿಎಂ ಶ್ರೀ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ, ತುಮಕೂರು
ಪಿಎಂ ಶ್ರೀ ಕೇಂದ್ರೀಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ತುಮಕೂರು
ಅಮಲಾಪುರ, ಅರಕೇರೆ ಪೋಸ್ಟ್, ಕೊರಟಗೆರೆ ಮಾರ್ಗ, ತುಮಕೂರು - ೫೭೨ ೧೦೬
PM Shri Kendriya Vidyalaya, Tumakuru
Amalapura, Arakere Post, Koratagere Road, Tumakuru - 572106
Phone no- 0816 - 2959066 / 0816 - 2959644
Website: tumkur.kvs.ac.in Email: kvtumakuru@gmail.com

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR PREPARATION OF PANEL (SESSION 2026–27)

Kendriya Vidyalaya, Tumkur invites **eligible and interested candidates for Walk-in-Interview** for preparation of panel for engagement on **Purely Contractual / Part-Time basis,** as per KVS norms, for the Academic Session **2026-27** for the following posts:

Post(s)	Subject
TGT	English, Hindi, Sanskrit, Maths, Science, Social Science
PRTs	Primary Teachers, Bal Vatika Teachers
Other Post	Computer instructor, Yoga coach, Sports Coach, Music Coach, Nurse, care Giver, Special Educator, Kannada Teacher, ATL Lab instructor (B. Tech – Electronics & Communication), Counsellor

Date of Interview:23.02.2026 (Monday)
Venue: Kendriya Vidyalaya, Tumkur
Reporting Time:9:00 AM
Interview Time:10:30 AM onwards

- Eligible candidates should attend the interview with **original certificates, one set of self-attested photocopies, passport size photographs,** and a **duly filled application form.**
- Educational qualifications and eligibility conditions shall be as per **KVS norms.** No TA/DA will be paid for attending the interview.
- The panel prepared will be valid for the Academic Session **2026–27** and engagement will be made **as and when required.**
- For detailed information regarding eligibility, qualifications, and application format, candidates may visit the **Vidyalaya website / notice board.**

Principal
Kendriya Vidyalaya, Tumkur

Farmers' pulse

Only structural reforms in agriculture sector can ensure food security

India manages its prodigious demand for pulses using a mix of import policy, price stabilisation and conditional MSP procurement. Imports are the most sensitive because a single central decision can immediately lower household spending when supply is tight, at the expense of hurting farmers, and knowing that markets cannot always absorb 'extra' supply. So, when the U.S. said that its trade deal with India obligated India to purchase pulses from American suppliers, it implied that the government had agreed to committing imports against farmers' interests – a politically fraught stance in India since the 2020-21 farm law protests and which might see a revival now. India's pulse output has hovered around 2.5 crore tonnes in recent years while demand is estimated to be three crore tonnes; imports fill the gap. Pulses account for roughly a quarter of non-cereal protein intake and support five crore farmers and their families. In the absence of a reliable MSP regime as for rice and wheat, however, farmers face organised neglect due to weak procurement mechanisms, the risks of rain-fed cultivation, and yields lower than international competitors. In 2019-24, government procurement under the Price Support Scheme fluctuated between 2.9% and 12.4% of production. Many States also have inadequate procurement centres, forcing farmers to sell to private traders regardless of the official MSP. As a result, farmers are incentivised to underinvest in pulses, leading to a vicious cycle.

India recently announced ambitious initiatives to solve this problem, an example being the October 2025 self-sufficiency Mission, with a ₹11,440 crore outlay, targeting 310 lakh hectares of cultivation and 350 lakh tonnes of production by 2030-31. But farmers remain sceptical since older promises have yet to materialise. All this is why the initial apparent inclusion of pulses in the U.S. documents, describing what India would open to American agri-imports, hit a raw nerve among India's farmers. Opening the market to U.S. pulses would further depress domestic prices and directly contradict the government's new Mission. Breaking this cycle would require more than removing objectionable words from an agreement, including addressing the procurement infrastructure deficit, providing genuine MSP guarantees, investing in productivity improvements for rain-fed areas where pulses are grown, and creating market systems that explicitly reward farmers who choose to cultivate pulses. Until such structural reforms materialise, however, pulse farmers will continue to occupy a precarious position in India's agricultural economy and India will continue to depend on imports to meet its demand, perpetuating both food security vulnerabilities and political sensitivity around any trade agreement that appears to favour foreign producers.

Too fake to be good

Labelling of synthetically generated content on social media is a must

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2026, add a critical requirement for social media platforms: AI-generated imagery must now be labelled prominently. Since the draft rules were released in October, there have been some improvements in this mandate: it is no longer prescribing a set size for such a disclosure, nor is it applicable to any AI-generated imagery that does not seek to pass off as the real thing. AI-generated imagery has flooded users' feeds and they have a right to know that this imagery is not real. The requirement that users declare synthetically generated content as such is welcome. As India approaches the AI Impact Summit with a stated intent to regulate AI only insofar as necessary, the requirement shows considerable restraint. Since the technology for creating synthetic imagery is rapidly evolving, the government will, however, have to revisit parts of the Rules that impose proactive detection of synthetic content by platforms – after all, while tech platforms are generally able to detect synthetic media automatically, this capability is constantly challenged by the billions of dollars being invested into ironing out the flaws that these detection mechanisms rely upon.

What is problematic is the government's insertion – with absolutely no public forewarning – of reducing the timelines for taking down content under the Rules to a mere two or three hours. Reducing such compliance timelines creates one of two incentives for social media platforms: either have empowered representatives at all times who can appropriately weigh the merits of a take-down notice and balance it against freedom of expression; or implement a take-down-and-ask-questions-later approach. Any delay would implicate firms in court by removing their safe harbour, an outcome they understandably wish to avoid. This shortening applies to all platforms, adding a barrier of entry to a space that should be open to constant challengers in an open Internet. This shorter timeline was not indicated in October, and since comments are not public, there is no way to confirm if all interests were properly considered.. The lack of open consultation is a particularly pressing issue when the main stakeholders are hyperscalers with hundreds of billions of dollars in planned investments over the years ahead. Their views need to be open to scrutiny, as must the deliberations their inputs lead to. The IT Rules remain contested in multiple court cases, and it is inappropriate to make sudden changes to social media governance that may have ramifications for the freedom of expression without parliamentary debate.

Vande Mataram, *its six stanzas and a settled question*

Sanjay Hegde

is a Senior Advocate designated by the Supreme Court of India

The January 28, 2026 order of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), directing that all six stanzas of *Vande Mataram* be played at official functions, with everyone present required to stand at attention, is not an act of patriotism. It is constitutional vandalism dressed up in national pride. To understand why, we need to go back to 1937, look at what the Constituent Assembly decided, and remember what the Supreme Court of India had said in the landmark case, *Bijoe Emmanuel and Ors. vs State of Kerala and Ors.* (1986).

1937 settlement is not weakness, but wisdom

In October 1937, the Congress Working Committee had met in Calcutta. What happened there was not appeasement, as some now claim. Dr. Rajendra Prasad moved the resolution while Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel seconded it. Mahatma Gandhi was there as a special invitee. The resolution was unanimous. They recognised "the validity of objections raised by Muslim friends to certain parts of the song" and concluded that "the first two stanzas alone, accepted as the national song at national gatherings, are in no sense objectionable".

This was not cowardice. It was common sense. The later stanzas of Bankim Chandra Chatterjee's poem (*Vande Mataram*) call out, by name, the Hindu goddesses Durga, Lakshmi and Saraswati. One verse literally describes the motherland as "*Tvam hi* Durga *dasa-praharana-dharini* (You are Durga, wielder of the 10 weapons").

Think about what it means to force a Muslim civil servant, a Christian schoolteacher, a Sikh soldier, a Buddhist monk, or an atheist scientist to stand at attention while these verses are sung. That is not fostering unity. That is imposing a religious test in a secular republic.

Even Rabindranath Tagore supported keeping it to two stanzas. The whole freedom movement – from the moderate to the radical, from the secular to the devout – agreed that the first two stanzas captured the song's spirit without hurting anyone's faith. This was not a fringe decision. It was the collective wisdom of the people who fought for India's freedom.

On January 24, 1950, President Rajendra Prasad announced that *Jana Gana Mana* would be the National Anthem, and that *Vande Mataram* would "be honoured equally" with it. But here is what matters: the Constituent Assembly adopted only the two-stanza version as the National Song. Those four other stanzas were not accidentally forgotten. They were deliberately left out because our founders understood something crucial: a secular republic cannot make verses devoted to specific gods and goddesses into official symbols.

In the Constitution, Article 51A(a) tells every citizen "to abide by ...the National Flag, and the National Anthem". If one notices carefully, the National Song is not mentioned. When Parliament added fundamental duties through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1976, it specifically listed the Flag and the Anthem. It did not include the Song. This was not an oversight. This was a choice. The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, protects the National Anthem, the Flag, the Constitution. It does not cover *Vande Mataram*. There is no legal penalty for not singing it, not standing for it, or not showing it any particular respect. This is not accidental. The constitutional framework deliberately treats the anthem (which is secular and inclusive) differently from the song (which has religious elements that need to be carefully limited).

The order of the Home Ministry mandating the full version of *Vande Mataram* is constitutionally indefensible

The case about the right not to sing

In July 1985, Bijoe, Binu Mol, and Bindu Emmanuel, three children in Kerala, were expelled from school. They were Jehovah's Witnesses. Every morning during assembly, they stood respectfully while the National Anthem played. But they did not sing it, because their faith did not allow it. They did not cause trouble. They did not disrupt anyone. Then a State Minister got involved, and they were sent out. While the Kerala High Court said the expulsion was fine, the Supreme Court said absolutely not.

In his judgment, Justice O. Chinnappa Reddy said the expulsion violated their fundamental rights to free speech and freedom of religion. Then he wrote something that should be carved in stone: "Proper respect is shown to the National Anthem by standing up when it is sung. It will not be right to say that disrespect is shown by not joining in the singing."

The Court went further. "It will not be right to say that disrespect is shown by not joining in the singing." 'Standing respectfully but staying silent does not break any law'. The children's right to remain silent, which is itself part of free speech, was constitutionally protected. Justice Reddy quoted an American judge, Justice Robert H. Jackson, from a case, *West Virginia State Board of Education vs Barnette* (1943): "If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein." That star has not stopped shining.

Now, consider what the MHA order does. It mandates the playing of the complete six-stanza version at civil investitures, presidential events, and flag ceremonies. Everyone must stand at attention. Schools must start the day with community singing of the National Song. And, yes. It includes the four stanzas that the Constituent Assembly deliberately excluded. The stanzas invoking Durga with her weapons, Lakshmi with her blessings and Saraswati with her knowledge. The logic is simple. If the Court said that you cannot force people to sing even the National Anthem (which has constitutional protection under Article 51A and legal protection under a specific Act), then you certainly cannot force them to sing the National Song (which has neither constitutional mention nor legal protection). What is forbidden for the greater must surely be forbidden for the lesser.

But this order does something worse. It is not just asking people to stand. It is making them participate, even passively, in singing explicitly religious verses. Consider the position of a Muslim bureaucrat compelled to stand at attention as "You are Durga, wielder of the ten weapons" echoes through the hall, or a Christian child in a school assembly where Hindu deities are invoked. That is not a formality. That is a wound to conscience.

That is exactly what Article 25 of the Constitution protects against. India's founders were not naive. They were building something extraordinary: a constitutional order that could hold together a civilization of staggering diversity. They understood what we seem to have forgotten. Real patriotism does not require everyone to pray the same way.

The first two stanzas – "*Sujalam, suphalam, malayaja sheetalam*" – celebrate our motherland's rivers, fruits, cool breezes, moonlit nights. They belong to every Indian, regardless of faith. The later stanzas are beautiful devotional poetry, but they are addressed to specific deities of one religious tradition. To mix them together and force everyone to participate in both is to break the republic's founding promise.

What this is really about

Nobody is questioning whether *Vande Mataram* deserves respect. Of course it does. Its first two stanzas lit the fire of resistance against colonial rule. People sang them in streets and in jail cells, Hindus and Muslims together, as a battle cry for freedom.

The real question is simpler: Can the government force citizens to participate in religious observance by calling it patriotism? Any honest reading of the Constitution and the Supreme Court's judgments gives you the answer. No. *Bijoe Emmanuel* is not some dusty old precedent. It is alive. It stands for something essential – in a constitutional democracy, the right to disagree, even silently and respectfully, is not treason. It is freedom itself.

The MHA order overturns the 1937 settlement. It ignores what the Constituent Assembly deliberately chose. It disregards Article 51A. It sidesteps the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act. It violates the principles in *Bijoe Emmanuel*. And it does all this through executive order, without any law being passed, without any constitutional amendment, without any court approval.

If there is any fixed star in our constitutional sky, it is this. The Republic belongs equally to all its citizens. To those who sing and to those who, for reasons of conscience, stand in respectful silence. To put out that star in patriotism's name is to betray the very idea of India that its founders fought to build. The Constitution does not demand that we all worship the same way. It demands that we are all equal citizens. Those are not the same thing, and no amount of forced standing can make them so.

The hidden cost of insurance distribution

T.C. Suseel Kumar

is a former Managing Director of the Life Insurance Corporation of India

R. Sudhakar

is a former Executive Director – Marketing of the Life Insurance Corporation of India

India's life insurance industry paid ₹60,799 crore in commissions in FY2025. By itself, the figure is not extraordinary for a sector of this scale. What should alarm regulators and policymakers is the trend. In a single year, commission payouts surged 18% while premium growth managed only 6.7%. Distribution costs are now rising nearly three times faster than the business they are meant to support. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expressed concern about this divergence in its Financial Stability Report (December 2025).

Public insurers show better cost discipline, while several private insurers – especially after 2022-23 – exhibit steeper commission escalation. For policyholders, this divergence is not theoretical. Over the life of a typical policy, it translates into tens of thousands of rupees of foregone value – not because of fraud or misconduct, but because of how bargaining power is concentrated across certain distribution channels.

Public and private insurance divergence

FY2025 data reveal something more fundamental than headline cost inflation – an exposure of a structural bifurcation. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), which sources nearly 95% of its business through its agency force, saw its commission ratio decline from 5.45% to 5.17% despite modest premium growth of 2.8%. In contrast, insurers heavily dependent on alternate channels – bancassurance, brokers, insurance marketing firms – saw commission ratios rise sharply from 7.21% to 8.95%, a 174-basis-point jump in a single year. Commission expenditure by private insurers surged 38.8%, from ₹25,564 crore to ₹35,491 crore.

The LIC and a few listed private insurers exhibit better cost control, while others show steep increases, pulling up private-sector averages. This 202-basis-point divergence between public and private life insurers – operating under identical regulations, selling similar products, and competing for the same customers – can largely be explained by two variables: channel composition and the share of single-premium versus non-single-premium business. Insurers with an agency-dominated model display cost discipline; those reliant on alternate channels show cost escalation. This is not correlation – it is structural causation.

Distribution escalation is a structural faultline in India's life insurance industry

The explanation lies in bargaining power. Twenty-six life insurers compete for partnerships with banks controlling over 4,00,000 branches. Banks can reallocate business, switch insurer partners, or adjust shelf space with relative ease. Insurers face high switching costs: building alternate distribution at scale requires years and substantial capital. The outcome is predictable – pricing power concentrates with distribution intermediaries, and commission inflation follows.

Markets respond to incentives, not intent. Historically, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) imposed product-wise commission caps, limiting payouts regardless of channel. When hard caps existed, competitive pressure surfaced through marketing arrangements, technology fees, training programmes and infrastructure support. Many of these are legitimate. Concern arises when scale and timing mirror sales volumes rather than services delivered. This is not a compliance failure; it is the natural outcome of competition interacting with concentrated distribution power.

Unchanged economics

The shift in 2023-24 to the Expenses of Management (EOM) framework was well-intentioned. It aimed to encourage managerial autonomy, efficiency and accountability. However, expenses earlier embedded elsewhere have now surfaced transparently as commissions. Institutions with bargaining power have become more assertive in demanding higher payouts. Visibility has improved, but underlying economics remain unchanged.

Therefore, blaming individual agents misses the point entirely. After sourcing costs, taxes, overrides and institutional deductions, agents retain perhaps 35%-40% of headline commissions. The bulk – nearly ₹26,000 crore in FY2025 – accrues to corporate intermediaries, particularly banks and insurance marketing firms, which command customer access at scale. This is a market-structure issue, not an agent-conduct issue.

Several popular remedies fail to address this reality. Clawbacks make intermediary cash flows uncertain, encouraging risk aversion and exit from insurance distribution, ultimately harming penetration. Commission disclosure offers limited benefit to most buyers while incentivising informal rebates that push transactions outside regulatory visibility. Open architecture, often positioned as pro-competition, risks worsening outcomes by eroding insurers' incentives to invest in agent capability and service – mirroring the mutual fund industry's post-2012 experience.

Distribution economics cannot be corrected through disclosure or accounting reclassification alone. The issue runs deeper in incentive design and bargaining power.

A way out

What would help is rebalancing commissions away from extreme front-loading toward meaningful renewal income, so that servicing and persistency matter as much as sales. Bancassurance requires explicit joint oversight by the RBI and IRDAI, focusing on persistency, complaints, servicing quality and commissions – not just headline expense ratios. EOM limits must recognise channel economics while ensuring that acquisition costs remain within reasonable bounds. Above all, regulation should pivot toward outcomes – retention, service satisfaction and claims experience rather than process compliance.

Insurance penetration has already softened, declining from 4% to 3.7% of GDP in FY2024. If distribution costs continue to rise faster than value delivered, insurance will steadily lose relevance for middle-income households.

Containing acquisition costs within rational limits is not optional. It is essential for sustainable penetration, a concern rightly flagged by the RBI.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Visit to Hyderabad

February 13, 2026, marks the 133rd anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's historic visit to Hyderabad in 1893, when he delivered his maiden public speech at Mahboob College before leaving for the World's Parliament of Religions in Chicago. In his speech, 'My Mission to the West', a lecture that was attended by intellectuals, writers, celebrities and residents, he delivered a message of self-confidence, unity of religions, and service to the poor, which remains most relevant in 2026.

At a time when society faces divisions and inequalities, his call for universal brotherhood and inclusive development continues to inspire the great nation called India.

On this occasion, we must remember his ideals and strive to build a stronger, more harmonious India.

Satish Reddy Kanaganti,
Tipparthy, Nalgonda, Telangana

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Is a double-engine government crucial for growth?

PARLEY

Louise Tillin

Professor of Politics at King's India Institute, London

Yamini Aiyar

Former President and Chief Executive of the Centre for Policy Research and Senior Visiting Fellow at Brown University

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Kerala and Tamil Nadu, scheduled to have Assembly elections in a few months, and stressed the need for a double-engine government. A double-engine government refers to having the same political party (in this case, the Bharatiya Janata Party or its allies in the National Democratic Alliance) in power at both the Centre and in a State. Critics of this model include Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, who has asked how Opposition-ruled States are doing well without a double-engine government. Is a double-engine government crucial for growth? Louise Tillin and Yamini Aiyar discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **N. Sai Charan**. Edited excerpts:

Does the discourse around a double-engine government imply an inherent bias against non-BJP/non-NDA governments in the States?

Louise Tillin: In a literal sense, yes. It suggests that political alignment between the Union and State governments is better for voters than the lack of it. However, this is different from asking whether the Union government actually governs in a way that is biased against non-NDA States.

At one level, we see that States that are not ruled by the NDA do not receive special treatment. We saw in last year's Budget, for instance, that coalition partners of the BJP at the Centre received special fiscal packages that non-NDA States did not receive. But can we say therefore that NDA-ruled States receive other forms of preferential treatment?

We can think about this in fiscal and political terms. A large quantity of Centre-State transfers take place through formulas set by the Finance Commission. And these are not inherently biased against Opposition-ruled States. Even if a number of States currently ruled by Opposition parties contribute more to the Central kitty than they receive in return, that is because of the way fiscal redistribution works in India. So, we can't say that the Finance Commission is partisan in the way it manages Centre-State transfers.

But there is more room for discretion in other types of transfers. Opposition-ruled States complain about delays or non-payment of matching funds for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). Because these transfers allow for more discretion, they create more scope for potential partisan bias compared to transfers governed by the Finance Commission. At the same time, all States, regardless of political alignment, are operating within a broader context of increasing fiscal centralisation.

The other way to think about this question is politically. States which are politically aligned with the Centre are likely to experience a lower degree of interference by Union agencies.

It is difficult to say that we can detect partisan bias in some of the more rule-bound operations of the Government of India. But there is noise around it, which is politically driven, which suggests that there is partisan bias going on.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Chennai. VEDHAN M.

Yamini Aiyar: A principal problem with the idea of 'double engine' is in its framing. It undermines the core principle of federal accommodation. Federalism allows for multiple political identities to cohere within the framework of the nation state. Thus, a truly federal India, with its diverse identities, is going to have different types of political parties. The idea of 'double engine' invokes a challenge to this principle of accommodation. It is presented to voters as a means by which efficiency can be entrenched within Centre-State relations.

Constitutionally, India's federal structure is dependent on cooperation between the Centre and States. What the framework of 'double engine' posits is the idea that different political parties across States and the Centre make cooperation harder and therefore require more symmetry. In that sense, it pits efficiency against democracy. So, the idea of 'double engine' undermines the fundamental principle of federalism and pits Opposition parties against the political party at the Centre.

It is important to say that even in a world where the framework of 'double engine' was not invoked, in moments of political dominance, national parties have misused their constitutional powers in ways that have politicised the dynamic of Centre-State relations. However, the framing of 'double engine' seeks to legitimise this form of political control.

> The idea of 'double engine' invokes a challenge to the principle of accommodation. It is presented to voters as a means by which efficiency can be entrenched within Centre-State relations.
>
> YAMINI AIYAR

Is the absence of a 'double engine' setup hindering the financial autonomy of States, particularly regarding the timely release of Central funds?

LT: We have to think about the discourse of 'double-engine' government within the wider context of an ideological assault on the idea of federalism in India. Under the weight of a dominant national party, we are seeing the steady erosion of what I would describe as a culture of federal restraint in which the Centre and States mutually respect each other's spheres of autonomy. But the shrinking of the fiscal autonomy of States is not simply a 'double engine' question. All States are seeing their fiscal autonomy shrink for a number of reasons, including the introduction of GST and the introduction of new cesses and surcharges.

YA: Since 2008-09, at the Accountability Initiative at the Center for Policy Research, we began tracking the flow of funds for CSS released by the Centre which go into the State treasury and then through layers of administration to the last mile where there is expenditure. We began to notice expenditure units spend a significant part of the financial year awaiting funds, and then rush to spend it before March 31 to show utilisation certificates so that next year's money gets released. This was largely on account of a complete administrative failure caused by rules and conditionalities imposed on the flow and use of CSS.

States have long demanded greater fiscal devolution from the Centre. The 14th Finance Commission pushed for enhanced devolution of the divisible pool of taxes to States, and said CSS conditionalities that make fund flows difficult and create inefficiencies must be addressed. The Modi government dismantled the Planning Commission, claiming that allocation of funds was centralising. It replaced it with NITI Aayog, which established a Chief Ministers' subcommittee tasked with examining the restructuring of CSS to address inefficiencies in fund flows. But its recommendations were ignored.

Thus India has had a history of administrative failure when it comes to fund flows and these have affected all States. The big shift now is that discretionary channels of CSS are being used, and administrative failures are being leveraged more politically. So we are no longer merely in the arena of administrative failures creating inefficiencies; those inefficiencies are being deployed politically to create deeper problems.

Does the claim that double-engine governments benefit States hold up against the reality of the south, where several States with better socioeconomic indicators are ruled by non-BJP/non-NDA governments?

LT: The notion that there is a consistent pattern of what double-engine governance does for economic outcomes or fiscal redistribution is fiction. It is fiction that India can achieve greater efficiency and economic growth by negating its pluralism. The southern States are good examples of that. Tamil Nadu has seen a high pace of economic growth over the last few decades. Why is that the case? It is not only a question of the party in power. Historically, changes in land ownership patterns and political mobilisation around social justice for lower caste communities took place in the south much earlier than in the north. Those have been important preconditions for the economic dynamism we see in the south today.

We also have to acknowledge that India has a skewed pattern of development, where industrial development is heavily concentrated in the south. Tamil Nadu's growth rate is also a result of investments from other parts of India; it is built on the back of internal labour migration from poorer regions, often with exploitative wage levels.

YA: If you look at patterns of growth in India, there is an aggregate national picture. But a closer look reveals that individual States have followed distinct trajectories of economic growth and human development. These variations reflect their own historical and political path dependencies, many of which predate Independence. Kerala's growth comes from remittances, which is different from Tamil Nadu's attempt at trying to hasten its growth via manufacturing. All this points to the fact that deeper federalism plays a role in shaping growth. It is only through a deeper and more effective federalism that we will arrive at a cooperative federal bargain.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

From sociology to journalism: A lesson from André Béteille

Asking one's own questions and testing every claim against evidence is the purpose of both scholarship and journalism

Sandeep Phukan

The passing of André Béteille, renowned sociologist and public intellectual, reminded me of an exchange I had with him that shaped my approach to journalism in later years.

As a Master's student, I had applied for a scholarship at the Centre for Advanced Study in Sociological Research for the academic year 1997-99. Besides the head of the department, Anand Chakravarti, the panel included many other stalwarts, including Professor Béteille.

I anticipated questions on thinkers such as Émile Durkheim, Louis Dumont, and Claude Lévi-Strauss. And sure enough, Prof. Béteille asked me about Durkheim's comparative method and urged me to point out what I thought were the shortcomings of that approach.

I thought I was well prepared. I rattled off points I had picked up from commentaries on Durkheim.

"And you think Durkheim did not know this? You must always think for yourself and not just rely on what others have said about an issue," he responded.

Prof. Virginius Xaxa came to my rescue and I managed to secure the scholarship. That brief exchange stayed with me.

Both scholarship and journalism require independent judgment, not borrowed opinions. Prof. Béteille's own academic journey reveals this approach.

Born in 1934 to a Bengali mother and a French father, his growing years reflected the confluence of cultures that defines India's pluralism. Starting out as a student of Physics, he moved to Anthropology. After completing an M.Sc. in the subject from the University of Calcutta, he moved to Delhi.

Béteille did his doctoral research under the legendary M.N. Srinivas, who had set up the Department of Sociology at the Delhi School of Economics. Prof. Srinivas had given the concept of Sanskritisation to Indian sociology – the process through which castes placed low in the traditional hierarchy seek to move up by adopting the rituals and dietary habits of those above them. Prof. Béteille made caste, often understood in terms of one's hereditary status, a dynamic concept. His book *Caste, Class and Power* (1965), based on his fieldwork in Sripuram village of Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur district, demonstrated how land ownership, political authority, and economic change reshaped caste relations. It is a classic work in understanding social stratification in the modern Indian context and continues to be a model of how empirical research can illuminate broader theoretical questions.

Prof. Béteille was a quintessential old-school professor: he wore a tweed jacket with a matching tie during Delhi winters, bush shirts in summer, and occasionally, a dhoti-kurta in the Bengali style. Walking into the classroom, he would remove his leather-strapped wristwatch and place it on the table. Then, he would recap what had been taught earlier before continuing from where he had left off. More than any other scholar of his generation, he helped establish sociology as a rigorous, empirically grounded discipline – one that was capable of engaging with India's social complexity without being captive to ideology. His work constantly reminded readers that society could not be reduced to slogans or theories alone; it had to be observed, measured, and understood in its contradictions.

His approach was not very different from what a reporter ought to do – go to the field, listen carefully, check facts, and resist the temptation to fit reality into preconceived frameworks.

Prof. Béteille took academic writing beyond esoteric circles without ever compromising on meticulous research. And his approach teaches journalists to follow academic rigour in our writings.

Reporting is not merely repeating; it is asking one's own questions and testing every claim against evidence. I have to thank my professor for instilling a fundamental principle of journalism in me.

sandeep.phukan@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Manipur on edge

Armed "miscreants" set fire to houses at Litan Sareikhong village, in Ukhrul district of Manipur. Trouble in the area began when a group of Kuki-Zo people assaulted a Tangkhul-Naga man on Saturday night. The situation escalated the following afternoon when Naga villagers approached the chief of Litan Sareikhong village and demanded that the culprits be produced before them. PTI

FROM THE ARCHIVES — The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 13, 1976

Idukki project will bring prosperity to Kerala and the nation

Cochin, Feb. 12: Commissioning the Rs. 110-crore giant Idukki hydel project completed with Canadian aid to-day, the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, said she was dedicating it to the people of Kerala and the nation.

Mrs. Gandhi who flew into the mountainous range at Mooiamattam this morning from Cochin drove straight from the helipad to the underground power station and performed the formal commissioning.

As the new Prime Minister pressed a button from inside the underground power house water jetting down from a height of 700 metres surged through the nozzles and set a huge generator spinning. In a matter of 150 seconds, the State's power generation soared up by 21 per cent.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 13, 1926

The Indian Navy proposal

Reuter's Special Service

London, Feb. 12: Apropos of the Indian Navy, The Spectator says that Indians who are expressing doubt especially do not understand what proof of good faith is the granting of the white ensign.

From Page One

‘Zero tariff textiles exports to U.S. possible’

The Commerce Minister added that Indian farmers also stand to benefit from increased exports to the European Union, the U.K. , Switzerland, Norway, and Australia due to India’s free trade agreements with these countries and groupings.

This latest shift in the contours of the India-U.S. deal is not a new one. The U.S. government on Wednesday amended a fact sheet it had uploaded a few days earlier, by removing references to “pulses”, “agricultural products”, and “digital service tax”. The new version of the fact sheet also said India “intends” to buy $500 billion worth of U.S. goods as opposed to the earlier phrasing that said India has “committed to buy” this amount.

P. Krishnaprasad, a senior functionary of Samyukt Kisan Morcha, said the organisation will examine the impact of Bangladesh- U.S. deal on cotton farmers in India. “Cotton farmers here are denied minimum support price. Any import of cotton will harm the farmers...,” he added.

(With inputs from A.M. Jigeesh)

New CPI series marks retail inflation at 2.75%

The number of goods covered under the new series has increased to 308 from 259, and the number of services has gone up to 50 from 40.

The updated CPI series gives new weights to goods and services based on consumption patterns revealed in the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2023-24.

“The economy has undergone a significant transformation in the last decade,” Mr. Nageswaran said in his speech. “Consumption behaviour, market structures, and the compositions of household expenditure have evolved and the new CPI structure unsurprisingly reflects these changes.”

The new series also collects data from more sources across the country. Data are collected from 1,465 rural markets, up from 1,181. The number of urban markets covered has gone up to 1,395 from 1,114. Notably, the new series also collects data from 12 online marketplaces, a new category that has been included now.

The new series of the CPI provides more granular data by dividing the underlying goods and services into 12 broad groups compared to the six groups under the older series. As a result of this, and also based on the consumption patterns of the HCES 2023-24, the weights assigned to these goods and services have also been revised to better reflect current consumption.

New weights

The weightage assigned to the food and beverages category has been revised downward in the new series to 36.75% from the earlier 45.86%.

“The lower weightage on the relatively volatile food category may make the headline inflation number less volatile, all other things remaining equal,” Mr. Nageswaran said.

The housing category, with an earlier weight of 10.07%, has been expanded to also include water, electricity, gas and other fuels, and this combined category now has a weight of 17.67%.

The additional groups in the new series include furnishings, household equipment and routine household maintenance (with a weight of 4.47%), health (6.1%), transport (8.8%), information and communication (3.61%), recreation, sports and culture (1.52%), education services (3.33%), restaurants and accommodation services (3.35%), and personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services (5.04%).

The paan, tobacco and intoxicants category saw its weight increase to 2.99% from 2.38% in the older series. The clothing and footwear category’s weight fell to 2.38% from 6.53%.

“Since the basket is aligned with recent expenditure data, the inflation signals from this will be more closely matched to the prevailing economic conditions,” Mr. Nageswaran said.

MEA declines to deny U.S. claim on India’s Russian oil imports

Senior U.S. official reiterates that India has reduced Russian oil purchases as U.S. ‘wanted’ it; U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor meets Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri; joint statement, with no mention of Russian oil, is the ‘framework’, says MEA

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has once again refused to directly deny claims by the U.S. government on Russian oil imports on Thursday. This comes after a senior U.S. official said that India had reduced its purchases of Russian crude, as the U.S. “wanted [India] to.”

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri with U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor during an event on Thursday. PTI

The government expressed satisfaction at the amendments made by the U.S. administration to its “fact sheet” on the India-U.S. trade deal.

The fact sheet, available on the White House website, has now dropped contentious references to pulses and agriculture, saying it reflects the “shared understanding” between India and the U.S. on trade. However, it continues to state that India has committed to stop buying Russian oil.

“The Joint Statement is the framework and remains the basis of our mutual understanding in the matter. Both sides will now work towards implementing this framework and finalising the Interim Agreement,” MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. “The amendments in the U.S. fact sheet reflect the shared understandings contained in the Joint Statement.”

The joint statement does not contain any mention of Russian oil purchases.

Avoiding questions

As the Opposition continued to raise questions about the agreement in Parliament, U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor met with Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Thursday.

“So many opportunities ahead now that the trade deal has been finalized,” Mr. Gor wrote in a post on social media.

Mr. Jaiswal declined to comment on the U.S. contentions about Russian oil.

In a public statement, Mr. Misri said earlier this week that India’s energy sourcing is guided by pricing, availability, and risks, but did not respond to questions about the month-on-month decline in India’s imports of Russian oil.

On Wednesday, at a hearing of the U.S. House Sub-Committee on Foreign Affairs on U.S. ties with South Asia, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State S. Paul Kapur repeated statements by U.S. President Donald Trump and U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer asserting that India’s actions had been part of the larger trade deal with the U.S.

“The Indians have been reducing their purchases of Russian oil and diversifying away [from it], which is what we [the U.S.] wanted them [India] to do,” Mr. Kapur told the committee. “They’ve actually been buying more U.S. energy and that’s, I think, a promising possibility is to substitute some U.S. energy for the Russian energy and buying from other parts of the world,” he added.

When asked about the statements, Mr. Jaiswal said that Mr. Misri had responded to the “kind of commentary and conversations” being heard, including in the U.S. “Exactly to clarify matters, our Foreign Secretary has made a detailed statement... highlighting the various aspects of where [India’s] approach to energy sourcing remains,” he said.

According to the fact sheet, Mr. Trump had discussed the issue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a call on February 2, and had “agreed to remove the additional 25% tariff on imports from India in recognition of India’s commitment to stop purchasing Russian Federation oil.”

Man behind Himanta video starts new stream

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A day after he was removed from the BJP social media team in Assam, Ron Bikash Gaurav hailed the “Right Wing community” for expressing solidarity with him.

He launched a YouTube channel focused on ‘Right Wing’ content.

On Wednesday, the State BJP sacked him as one of the four co-conveners of its social media team after outrage over an artificial intelligence-generated video that showed Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma symbolically shooting at Muslims. The video was deleted hours after it was uploaded on the Assam BJP’s X handle and generated 5,00,000 views.

“The last 24 hours have been one of the most emotional and defining moments of my life. In that difficult hour, when silence and uncertainty surrounded me, the Right Wing community did something I will never forget: you stood beside me like a wall of strength,” Mr. Gaurav said.

Assam court issues gag order against Cong. leaders

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A court in Guwahati has barred Congress leaders Gaurav Gogoi, Bhupesh Baghel, and Jitendra Singh from making any “defamatory statements” against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Civil Judge (Senior Division) No. 1 Nayanjyoti Sarma passed the order on Wednesday, after the Chief Minister filed a ₹500 crore defamation suit against the Congress leaders for accusing him of illegally possessing 12,000 bighas (approximately 3,960 acres) of land.

The judge also barred an Assamese daily from making, publishing, or circulating any defamatory statements against the Chief Minister until they appear before the court.

“The court asked the newspaper’s publisher and staff reporter to submit proof of the allegations,” Advocate General Devajit Saikia, representing the Chief Minister, said.

Simultaneous polls do not violate Constitution’s Basic Structure: Justice Gavai

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Simultaneous elections do not violate the Basic Structure of the Constitution or its federal framework, former Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai told Parliament’s Joint Committee reviewing the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, which aims to synchronise elections for the Lok Sabha and Assemblies.

At the panel’s meeting on Thursday, Justice Gavai said the legislation brings “only a change in the manner of elections once”, which does not breach the doctrine. The structure of elections and voter rights remain the same, he noted, and therefore, the amendment would be constitutional. He further explained that it is well within Parliamentary competence to bring in such a law.

Since instruments such as the “no-confidence motion” remain intact, Justice Gavai said, there is no impact on the accountability of the Union or State governments.

B.R. Gavai

Divided opinions

So far, six former CJIs have spoken to the panel.

Two of them – Justices U.U. Lalit and Sanjiv Khanna – have raised questions about the Bill in relation to the Basic Structure of the Indian Constitution. Justice Lalit had said that the legislation in its present form will not withstand a legal challenge in the Supreme Court, while Justice Khanna said that it is open to question as “violating and offending the basic structure of the Constitution”.

However, four of the other former CJIs – Justices Ranjan Gogoi, D.Y. Chandrachud, J.S. Khehar, and now, Justice Gavai – told the panel that the Bill does not violate the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

The Parliamentary Joint Committee, headed by BJP MP P.P. Chaudhary, is reviewing the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2024, introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 17, 2024.

Mr. Chaudhary also told presspersons that in Thursday’s meeting, several members suggested creating a common electoral roll for panchayat/municipal, Assembly, and national elections.

“Making separate electoral rolls for each of these elections is a tedious task that usually falls on government teachers...,” he said.

Muslim bodies oppose notification on *Vande Mataram*

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

They allege that the song is against religious freedom, secular values and contradict SC ruling

The Central government’s notification making it mandatory to recite all verses of *Vande Mataram* has run into opposition from Muslim bodies. Led by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, they called upon the government to withdraw the notification failing which they would approach the Supreme Court.

“Making recitation of all verses of *Vande Mataram* in schools and official functions is unconstitutional, against religious freedom, secular values, and contrary to the Supreme Court’s judgment,” All India Muslim Personal Law Board’s spokesperson S.Q.R. Ilyas said.

The song, he said, contains references to the worship and veneration of Durga and other deities, which contradicts the beliefs of Muslims. “It is entirely unacceptable... Islam does not permit any form of associating partners with God,” he said. “Indian courts have also held that the many verses of song are inconsistent with secular values and have restricted their recitation.”

Meanwhile, the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind president Arshad Madani called it “a blatant attack on religious freedom” of the minorities.

He reiterated that some verses of the song were based on beliefs that portray the homeland as a deity. “It contradicts the belief of monotheistic religions,” Mr. Madani said.

The Ministry of Home Affairs had issued the notification on singing the National Song, directing that all six stanzas shall be sung on official functions besides schools.

SC asks govt. if Wangchuk saw videos used as proof

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Centre if climate activist Sonam Wangchuk was able to see, four videos the authorities are citing, among other clips, to justify his detention under the National Security Act (NSA).

Appearing before a Bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and P.B. Varale, Additional Solicitor-General K.M. Nataraj said the authorities had banked on 23 videos to order detention, and everything was supplied to Mr. Wangchuk.

However, the activist’s lawyers maintained four videos were not in the pen drive given to Mr. Wangchuk.

Modi to inaugurate new PMO and Central Secretariat buildings today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Friday formally inaugurate the new Prime Minister’s Office and the Central Secretariat buildings, and Kartavya Bhavan 1 and 2. He will also preside over the last meeting of the Union Cabinet in South Block.

An era will end when the iconic North and South Blocks are vacated. North and South Blocks initially housed the British government, and were taken over by the Indian government in 1947. They were designed by Herbert Baker.

South Block houses the Prime Minister’s Office, as well as the offices of the Union Ministries of External Affairs and Defence.

Making history: The last meeting of the Union Cabinet at South Block will be held on Friday. FILE PHOTO

North Block houses the Ministries of Home Affairs and Finance.

The Prime Minister’s Office will be moved on Friday to the newly built ‘Seva Teerth’ complex.

‘Seva Teerth’ will also house the National Security Council Secretariat and the Cabinet Secretariat, all of which were previously situated across different locations.

Kartavya Bhavan 1 and 2 house several key Ministries, including the Ministries of Finance, Defence, Health and Family Welfare, Education, Corporate Affairs, Culture, Law and Justice, Information and Broadcasting, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Chemicals and Fertilizers, and Tribal Affairs.

Both building complexes feature digitally integrated offices, structured public interface zones, and centralised reception facilities. Designed in accordance with 4-Star GRIHA standards, the complexes incorporate renewable energy systems, water conservation measures, waste management solutions, and high-performance building envelopes.

“The new building complexes address these issues by consolidating administrative functions within modern, future-ready facilities,” an official statement said.

Airlines say duty norms will reduce productivity

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The industry body representing airlines in the country has informed the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) that its proposed rest and duty norms for cabin crew will “decrease productivity” of staff, hamper growth, and erode their competitiveness in the global market.

In a letter, a copy of which has been reviewed by *The Hindu*, the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA) has opposed several provisions proposed by the DGCA in a November notification on cabin crew rest and duty hours. The FIA represents Indian airlines including IndiGo, Air India, SpiceJet and Akasa.

Car crash case: tobacco baron’s son gets bail

Press Trust of India
KANPUR

Shivam Mishra, son of local tobacco baron K.K. Mishra, got bail from a court in Kanpur on Thursday, hours after his arrest in connection with the Lamborghini crash that left several people injured on the VIP Road earlier this week.

The action came a day after a man claimed that he, and not Mr. Shivam Mishra, was driving the car at the time of the incident and went to the local court to surrender himself.

The Court, however, rejected his surrender plea after the police maintained its stand that it had evidence to establish Mr. Shivam Mishra was behind the wheel.

APPEAL

Master Rudra Nayak, Manipal Hospitals IP No.MH017862729, 6 years 10 months son of Mr.Sanjaya Nayak is Diagnosed to be suffering from Congenital Heart Diseases, S/P BDG done in 2021, well functioning BDG with MC goon of more than 2, Trivial MR, Tricuspid Atresia and Pulmonary Atresia, well open ASD. He requires to undergo Fontan completion. The Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.5, 00,000/-.

Please send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Fav. **Save Poor Lives** A/c Rudra Nayak, **Our A/c Details:** S/B A/c No. 20000913487. S.B.I. R.A.Puram, IFSC CODE:SBIN0001855. Please Donate by G-pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. Donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Door No.14/76, Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600028. Ph. No. 044 42044165 / 9884607377. Email: savepoorlives@gmail.com. Our website: www.savepoorlives.com

Trinamool leader raises GST strain on the poor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Thursday responded sharply to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's remark that he had "twisted facts" in his recent speech, asserting that the Centre was ignoring the day-to-day tax burden faced by ordinary families.

Answering the debate on the Union Budget, Ms. Sitharaman had accused Mr. Banerjee of twisting facts and also rejected allegations by Trinamool MPs that West Bengal did not find a mention in the Union Budget, stating that "it is an attempt to spread misinformation". She also countered the Trinamool MP's comment that GST has to be paid even after death, saying that there is no GST on funeral services and "maybe it's the syndicate running in West Bengal, which will be charging cut money on death".

Mr. Banerjee said the gap between what is written in the GST Act and what appears on the grocery bills of poor households highlights the fundamental issue he had raised.

Nationwide strike draws 30 crore participants: unions

The strike call, issued by the Central trade unions and the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, opposes the recent slew of FTAs and Labour Codes; strike actions and mobilisation in 600 districts, unions say

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

More than 30 crore workers, farmers, agricultural workers, and other groups of employees participated in the general strike on Thursday in protest against the four Labour Codes and the free trade deals being struck with the United States, European Union, and United Kingdom, the Central trade unions said.

The joint strike call was given by the trade unions and farm unions of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM). Their charter included demand to withdraw the Draft Seeds Bill, Electricity (Amendment) Bill, Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act, Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, and Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill.

Strike actions and massive mobilisations were reported from more than 600 districts across the country, the CTUs said in a statement. "In mining/manufacturing/service sectors, among the formal and informal labour, huge impact of the strike and mobilisation was witnessed," they added. "The workers/employees in most of the industrial areas in the country, including in many MNCs, joined the strike in a big way and organised processions. The defence sector employees held protest demonstrations with one hour cut of work in support of strike. The railway unions mobilised and participated in solidarity actions," the CTUs said.

A deserted road in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday during the nationwide strike against the labour codes. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Worker-peasant unity

The SKM congratulated farmers and workers for the successful strike. "It is one of the largest ever general strikes in the history of Independent India and specifically noted for cementing the worker-peasant unity as the backbone of the mass resistance against the corporate policies being vehemently pursued by the BJP-led NDA government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi," the SKM statement said.

"Anger among the working people against the FTAs, VB G-RAM G Act, the Electricity Bill, the Seed Bill, the Insurance Act, SHANTI Act and anti-people Union Budget 2026-27, and the discontent against the denial of minimum support price as per M.S. Swaminathan Commission formula for all crops with guaranteed procurement, unwillingness to declare comprehensive loan waiver to liberate farmer households from indebtedness and end continuance of the tragic peasant suicides has reflected on the street protests as part of the general strike," the farmers' body said. The SKM's national council is set to meet on February 24 at Kurukshetra, Haryana to discuss the next phase of action.

In Kerala, the strike assumed the proportions of a 'bandh'. Travel, governance, public service delivery, and commercial activities were disrupted, but the strike was largely peaceful.

Govt. can file FIR or move Privilege Motion, I will stand with farmers: Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said the government could file cases or move a Privilege Motion against him, but he would continue to stand with farmers. He accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being "anti-farmer" and of "selling" the country through the India-U.S. interim trade deal.

"I stand with the farmers and won't back an inch," Mr. Gandhi said in a video that he posted on his X handle.

Earlier in the day, Opposition leaders including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge protested within the Parliament complex against the trade deal and expressed solidarity with the general strike called by labour unions and farmers' association.

MPs from the Samajwadi Party, DMK and Left parties also took part in the protest outside Makar Dwar of Parliament.

In the video statement, Mr. Gandhi launched a sharp attack on the government over the agreement, alleging that there was a "chokehold" on the Prime Minister and that his "reins" were in the hands of U.S. President Donald Trump.

> The Prime Minister has done this [India-U.S. trade deal] as there is a chokehold on his neck. Modi's reins are in the hands of Donald Trump
>
> **RAHUL GANDHI**
> Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha

"FIR is filed, a case is registered, or a Privilege Motion is brought – I will fight for the farmers," the Congress leader said. "Any trade deal that takes away the farmers' livelihood or weakens the country's food security is anti-farmer."

Further, Mr. Gandhi said farmers were the foundation of the country. "The Congress fought for food security and Narendra Modi has betrayed our food security and our farmers. By striking a deal with the U.S., he has sold cotton, soya bean, apple and fruit farmers. For years, foreigners have been trying to capture our agriculture market," he said, adding that Mr. Modi had opened the doors for them.

"This is the truth, he also knows this. He has done this as there is a chokehold on his neck. Narendra Modi's reins are in the hands of Donald Trump," he claimed.

Mr. Gandhi said "maize, cotton, soya bean and fruit farmers are only the beginning", and alleged that the Prime Minister would open the entire agriculture market to "friends like Adani, Ambani and for foreign powers". "Put cases against me, abuse me, do whatever you want, file a Privilege Motion, it does not matter to me... Do whatever you want, I am standing with the farmers. I will not budge even an inch," he said.

Dubey moves Substantive Motion against Rahul in Lower House

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Nishikant Dubey on Thursday said he had initiated a Substantive Motion against Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for allegedly being "hand in glove" with "anti-national" forces.

A Substantive Motion is an independent, self-contained proposal submitted for the approval of a Legislative House or Assembly, drafted to express a decision or opinion. The motion entails a debate followed by a compulsory vote if the notice is accepted and the motion is moved.

Mr. Dubey's remarks during Zero Hour that he has submitted a notice for the substantive motion led to a furore in the House, leading to adjournment for the day.

The Substantive Motion comes a day after Mr. Gandhi tore into the India-U.S. interim trade deal, accusing the government of compromising national interests.

Nishikant Dubey says he initiated a Substantive Motion against Rahul Gandhi for being 'hand in glove' with 'anti-national' forces. ANI

The motion follows Rahul Gandhi's criticism of the India-U.S. interim trade agreement

Many parts of his speech were expunged from the records, and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said that the ruling side would move a Privilege Motion against the Congress leader.

On Thursday though, government sources said there had been no decision on moving such a motion and instead it would seek removal from the records of more words and lines from the speech that Mr. Gandhi has not authenticated so far.

In the Lok Sabha, Mr. Dubey said that he mentioned in the notice that Mr. Gandhi has engaged with the Soros Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and USAID, and has travelled to Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and the U.S. to engage in "anti-India" activities.

The notice said that Mr. Gandhi, with the help of the foreign organisations, has "very cleverly" been able to "capture the most pious dais of Parliament to foment public sentiments, levelling unsubstantiated allegations not only against the Election Commission but even the Supreme Court, lowering the dignity of the government without any substantive evidence and putting various other institutions in bad light.

Speaking to the media outside the House, Mr. Dubey said he had demanded the cancellation of Mr. Gandhi's membership. "He should be debarred from contesting the election for lifetime," the BJP leader said.

Not intimidated by Substantive Motion, says K.C. Venugopal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress MP accuses govt. of pressuring the Lok Sabha Chair and adopting 'double standard' in House

Dismissing BJP MP Nishikant Dubey's move to initiate a Substantive Motion against Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal said the party was not intimidated by such steps.

"We are not bothered about any Privilege or Substantive Motions. If you want to hang us, we are ready for that also," Mr. Venugopal told presspersons in the Parliament complex.

His remarks came after Mr. Dubey told reporters in the Parliament complex that he had submitted a notice to initiate a Substantive Motion against Mr. Gandhi to cancel his membership of the House.

Mr. Venugopal linked the development to what Mr. Gandhi had said in the Lok Sabha during the Budget discussion on Wednesday, much of which has been expunged.

On the expunction of Mr. Gandhi's remarks, Mr. Venugopal accused the government of exerting pressure on the Chair and adopting "double standard".

He said "this is why" the Congress had to take an "extreme position" of submitting a notice for the removal of the Speaker.

"We have been continuously complaining that we are not getting justice from the Chair. The government is pressuring the Chair to not give any chance to the LoP or other leaders of Opposition parties," said the Congress MP.

INBRIEF

Kharge slams caste bias in Odisha anganwadi boycott

Flagging an incident from Odisha, where parents refused to send children to an anganwadi after a Dalit woman was appointed helper-cum-cook, forcing the centre to remain shut for nearly three months, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said such caste discrimination was "shameful" and affected dignity, career progress and personal safety.

Bengal CM slams death of migrant worker in Pune

A Bengali migrant worker's death in Maharashtra provoked outrage in West Bengal with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday terming it a "hate crime". Sukhen Mahato, 24, from Purulia district, was found dead in Koregaon area of Pune in Maharashtra on Tuesday morning. The migrant worker earned a living at a factory that makes spare parts of vehicles, police said.

Lok Sabha passes Industrial Relations Code Bill to avoid confusion over 2020 Act

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Thursday passed a Bill to help avoid any "future unwarranted complication" over the continuity of certain laws replaced by the Industrial Relations Code of 2020.

The Industrial Relations Code (Amendment) Bill, 2026, contains savings provisions to ensure continuity and legal certainty.

The Bill would help avoid any "future unwarranted complication" over the continuity of certain laws replaced by the Industrial Relations Code of 2020.

The Industrial Relations Code, 2020 replaces the Trade Unions Act, 1926, the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 and the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, relating to trade unions, industrial employment and industrial disputes, according to statement of objects and reasons of the proposed law.

It contains savings provisions under Section 104 to ensure continuity and legal certainty. "Though the repeal has occurred by operation of Section 104 of the Code itself, there is a possibility of future confusion being created on a misconceived ground that the Act delegates the power to repeal the said enactments to the executive," it explained.

The provisions of Section 104 and a February 2026 notification are clear that the repeal has occurred by the operation of Section 104 of the Code itself. "It is considered desirable to introduce the proposed amendment to avoid any future unwarranted complication," it said.

The four Labour Codes implemented nearly three months ago ensures guarantee of minimum wage. These Codes also ensure compulsory issuance of appointment letters as well as uniform wages for the same work irrespective of gender, Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said in the discussion before the passage of the Bill.

Finance Minister is misleading Parliament, says Anand Sharma

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Anand Sharma on Thursday accused Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman of "deliberately misleading" Parliament on the agreements reached at the World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial meeting in Bali in December 2013.

In a statement, Mr. Sharma said the Minister's claim that the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government had "sold out" India's right to food security at the Bali meeting was "false, incorrect and contrary to facts on record and the WTO's official statements".

The remarks had been made to justify the government's interim trade deal with the United States, he alleged.

"In her desperation to justify and defend the sellout interim trade deal with U.S., she has levelled an unfair allegation that the Congress-led UPA government sold out India's right to food security at the WTO meeting in Bali. This is false and incorrect, contradicts the facts on record, and the WTO's official statement," Mr. Sharma said.

It was India that had forced the issue of public stockholding for food security onto the Bali agenda despite opposition from the U.S., the European Union, the Cairns Group, and other developed countries, Mr. Sharma said.

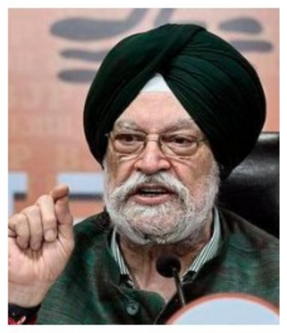
Congress demands Hardeep Singh Puri's resignation over reference in Epstein Files

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday demanded the resignation of Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Puri after his name came up in the Epstein Files.

Responding to Mr. Puri's explanation that he was in touch with the late Jeffrey Epstein, the disgraced financier who was charged with serious sex offences, Congress leader Pawan Khera asked why he had organised a visit for LinkedIn co-founder Reid Hoffman when there was a full-fledged Indian Embassy.

"Hardeep Puri at that time was a retired diplomat. In what capacity was he organising Hoffman's India visit," Mr. Khera asked in a video that he posted on his X handle.



Hardeep Singh Puri

"Had the Indian embassy closed down? Was the Indian Ambassador not there? Wasn't Sushma Swaraj the External Affairs Minister? Why did Narendra Modi need the services of Hardeep Puri," the Congress leader added.

The Congress has stepped up its attack on the Union Petroleum Minister after his name appeared in some of the mails pertaining to the Epstein Files.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has raised the issue inside and outside Parliament, even though his exact comments were removed from the Lok Sabha records.

While the ruling alliance said it would bring a privilege motion against Mr. Gandhi for making "unsubstantiated allegations" against Mr. Puri, the Petroleum Minister defended his mail exchanges with Epstein as "professional."

INBRIEF

In 145 years, Darjeeling toy train gets first woman TTE

Almost 145 years after it began service, the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) has its first woman train ticket examiner (TTE). Sarita Yolmo shifted from the Railway Press section to the Commercial Department and became a TTE at New Jalpaiguri. On Thursday, she created history by becoming the first woman TTE to be assigned 'tour duty' on the DHR. "Recording a first for a world-famous mountain railway system is a great feeling," she said."Sarita Yolmo's presence on the toy train is more than just a job assignment; it is a significant step forward for women's representation in the field operations of the Indian Railways," Railway spokesperson said.

Angela Merkel to deliver first Manmohan Memorial Lecture

Former German chancellor Angela Merkel will deliver the first Dr. Manmohan Singh Memorial Lecture in the national capital on February 26, sources said here on Thursday. The lecture is being organised by the Dr. Manmohan Singh Trust. Ms. Merkel, who shared good ties with the former Prime Minister, will deliver the inaugural lecture series in memory of Mr. Singh. She will speak on "Germany and India in times of global change". The former Prime Minister's family set up a trust to oversee his memorial at Rashtriya Smriti Sthal; the Centre has allotted land next to Pranab Mukherjee's memorial and has granted ₹25 lakh. PTI

One of two Nipah-infected nurses dies in West Bengal

One of the nurses infected with the Nipah virus at a private hospital in Barasat, West Bengal, died on Thursday afternoon. The other nurse has been discharged. Two Nipah cases were detected in the hospital on January 11. The nurses, one male and one female, had developed Nipah-like symptoms, tested positive in January and slipped into a coma. The female nurse remained critical for a longer period. After showing signs of recovery towards the end of January, she developed breathing complications again. After a secondary lung infection, she was put back on the ventilator on Wednesday. The male nurse later tested negative and was discharged last week.

Fire breaks out in Naval Dockyard in south Mumbai

A fire broke out in the Naval Dockyard in south Mumbai on Thursday night, officials said. As per preliminary information, the blaze erupted at the Survey Yard building located inside the Naval Dockyard around 10.15 p.m., they said. An official said the spot where the fire erupted was situated diagonally opposite the Gateway of India in Colaba. "Navy authorities rushed to the spot and initiated firefighting operations. There is no report of any injuries so far. Further details are awaited," the official said. Some persons in the vicinity have shared videos of the fire on social media. PTI

DAC gives nod for 114 Rafales for IAF, and six more P-81 aircraft for Navy

Approvals for ₹3.6 lakh crore mark one of the largest capital acquisition clearances; council chaired by the Defence Minister accords AoN for air-ship-based pseudo satellite for the IAF, and anti-tank mines and overhaul of vehicle platforms of Army

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Thursday accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisition proposals worth approximately ₹3.6 lakh crore.

The proposals include 114 Rafale fighter jets from France for the Indian Air Force and six P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft from the United States for the Indian Navy.

The Defence Ministry said that for the IAF, the AoN was approved for the procurement of 114 multi-role fighter aircraft (MRFA), combat missiles, and an air-ship-based high-altitude pseudo satellite (AS-HAPS). The Rafale jets are expected to significantly enhance the IAF's air-dominance capability across the full spectrum of conflict and strengthen its long-range offensive and deterrence posture.

'Make in India' ambitions: Most of the jets will be manufactured in India, providing a boost to domestic industry. K. MURALI KUMAR

A majority of the aircraft will be manufactured in India, providing a boost to domestic defence production.

The Ministry further added that the combat missiles would enhance the IAF's stand-off ground attack capability with deep-strike precision and high accuracy.

The AS-HAPS platform will be deployed for persistent intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), electronic intelligence (ELINT), telecommunications and remote sensing for military applications.

For the Army, the DAC accorded AoN for the procurement of anti-tank mines (Vibhav) and the overhaul of vehicle platforms of armoured recovery vehicles (ARVs), T-72 tanks and infantry combat vehicles (BMP-II).

The Vibhav mines will serve as an anti-tank obstacle system to delay and disrupt advancing enemy mechanised forces. The overhaul of existing armoured platforms is aimed at extending their service life and ensuring operational readiness, it added.

Reconnaissance aircraft

The Navy received AoN for six additional P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft from the U.S., along with a 4 MW marine gas turbine-based electric power generator. The P-8I aircraft will significantly bolster the Navy's long-range anti-submarine warfare, maritime surveillance and maritime strike capabilities.

Reducing dependence

The induction of the marine gas turbine-based generator under the Make-I category of the Defence Acquisition Procedure, 2020 is expected to reduce dependence on foreign manufacturers and enhance self-reliance in naval power generation systems.

For the Indian Coast Guard, the AoN was granted for the procurement of electro-optical/infrared (EO/IR) systems for its Dornier aircraft. The systems will enhance maritime surveillance and strengthen coastal security operations.

The approvals mark one of the largest capital acquisition clearances in recent years, underlining the government's thrust on force modernisation and indigenisation.

Minister introduces Bodhan AI at conclave

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said here on Thursday that artificial intelligence must be embedded in education to empower students and support teachers.

At the inaugural session of the Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave, Mr. Pradhan launched Bodhan AI, which has been established as a non-profit organisation under the Education Ministry to build an open-source "Bharat EduAI Stack" to introduce artificial intelligence across all levels of education.

IIT initiative

Mitesh Khapra of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras unveiled Bodhan AI and outlined plans for the Bharat EduAI Stack as digital public infrastructure. IIT Director V. Kamakoti said that Bodhan AI would aid in making education equitable, of high quality, affordable, and easily accessible.

Joint panel gets time till Monsoon Session to report on UGC replacement Bill

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Joint Committee of Parliament, constituted to examine the Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025, is expected to submit its report by the end of the Monsoon Session this year. The Bill aims to subsume multiple higher education regulators into a single "umbrella" commission in an overhaul driven by the National Education Policy, 2020.

The 31-member committee was constituted this week by the Speaker after the Union government introduced the legislation last December and immediately moved the Bill to be sent to the committee.

Objection to the Bill

Opposition MPs objected to the Bill, saying it will lead to "executive overreach" and subject higher education institutes to "pervasive executive control, graded autonomy, intrusive compliance requirements,

D. Purandeswari

severe penalties, and closure powers", and went against the principles of federalism.

Soon after moving the Bill to be examined by the committee, officials said the government was expecting the report of the panel by the end of the Budget Session in 2026.

On Thursday, however, the head of the committee, D. Purandeswari (BJP), moved a motion seeking an extension in the time to submit its report. The Lok Sabha passed the motion. Ms. Purandeswari sought time till the first day of the last week of the Monsoon Session to submit the report.

This came two days after the Committee Branch of the Lok Sabha notified the names of the 31 members, with the Speaker appointing Ms. Purandeswari as its Chairperson.

One member of the committee said the Secretariat for the panel was yet to be formed, and work would begin once that was done.

Panel members

The committee has 20 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha, with the Bharatiya Janata Party having the largest representation of 12 members. Those part of the committee include BJP MPs Sambit Patra, Tejasvi Surya, Anurag Singh Thakur, and Bansuri Swaraj, Congress members A. Bimol Akoijam and Varsha Gaikwad, and Education Standing Committee Chair Digvijaya Singh.

Tangkhul Hui and Kombai breeds to add bite to the dog squad of Assam Rifles

Rahul Karmakar
JORHAT

Indigenous breeds of dogs from Tamil Nadu and Nagaland are expected to team up to phase out foreign breeds in the dog squad of India's oldest paramilitary force by 2050.

The Union Home Ministry issued a directive in 2025 seeking the induction of more Indian canine breeds in the dog squads for all armed forces. The directive came three years after the Assam Rifles, established in 1835, started a pilot project to induct six Tangkhul Hui dogs into its squad.

Indigenous to Manipur's Ukhrul district, the Tangkhul Hui is highly disease-resistant and has traditionally been used for hunting.

The 2025 directive made the Assam Rifles, which is under the dual control of the Home (administrative) and Defence (operational) Ministries, start identifying suitable indigenous breeds to team

The Tangkhul Hui and Kombai breeds are likely to be inducted fully into the Assam Rifles' dog squad by March 2027. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

up with its "four-legged soldiers" from Manipur. It has zeroed in on the Kombai breed found in Tamil Nadu as the potentially most suitable partner of the Tangkhul Hui.

"We are in the process of identifying the parent stock of the Kombai for breeding. As the first step, we will induct two males and eight females of this breed in April," Lt. Col. Alok Palei, the Commanding Officer of the Assam Rifles Dog Training Centre (ARDTC) in Jorhat, told *The Hindu* on Thursday .

New breeds of dogs have a 15-year phase from identifying genetically superior parent stock to deploying trained dogs on the frontlines as guard dogs and trackers.

They have been the key to the paramilitary force seizing huge caches of arms and narcotics in the northeast.

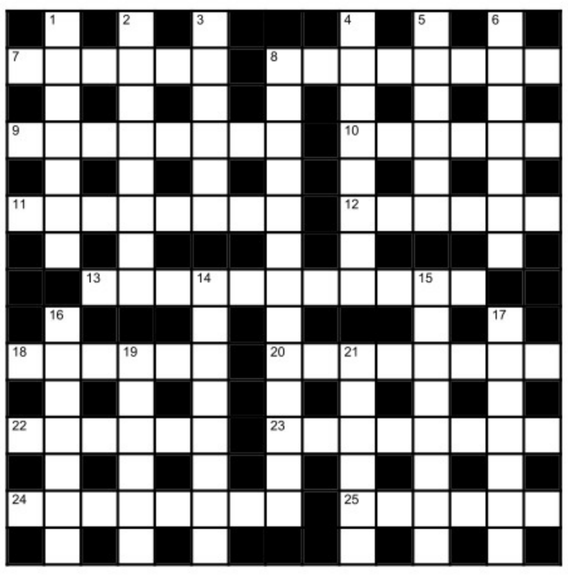
The Tangkhul Hui and Kombai breeds are likely to be inducted fully into the Assam Rifles' dog squad by March 2027. These two indigenous breeds will be trained at the ARDTC, the only such facility of the Assam Rifles.

TH CROSSWORD + 14716

(set by Pixie Dust)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Middle letters from birdbrains I'd eliminate (6)
8 Returning last minute, accepting present? It's fine (8)
9 Rated settlement? (8)
10 Lewd flier cycling around a liberal (6)
11 So, this state broadcast rubs police? (8)
12 Maxim and Carol circling a yard (6)
13 Beyond doubt, I register popular name at first (11)
18 Every now and then they answer to China (3,3)
20 Assist old boyfriend with exercise and fluid diet (8)
22 Steer clear of unlimited mess, aches? Eww! (6)
23 Keep pace with components in vintage Qualis engines (8)
24 Skin inflammations from contaminated buns and pots (8)
25 Rodents returned in house I vacated (6)

Down

1 Hide! Harsh breathing sound's smothering king Lear at first (7)
2 Catch daughter with boy? Can lead to this irritating condition (8)
3 Move back from extremely repulsive snake (6)
4 Is parent over maid's allure? (8)
5 German massage, extremely bawdy and seedy (6)
6 Sailor brought up bar's ladder (7)
8 Evict fans, exploited repeatedly for success? (13)
14 Chewed up raw donut? Unfortunate (8)
15 Lovely ad about honey (8)
16 Spooner exclaims: "Look at waste matter in nourishing food!" (3,4)
17 Stores scarves without original tags (7)
19 Persons of authority in New Delhi basically swaggering and haughty, intolerant, bossy,supercilious (6)
21 Bob covering head, follows Prince in attack (6)

SUDOKU

5		2			1		9	
8	9	3		4			7	
		1		6				
	8	4	6	9				
				5	2	7	8	
				1		2		
	1			2		9	6	8
	5		3			1		7

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS6790 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

C	I	N	E	M	A		R	E	G	A	R	D	E	D
	D		N		U		E		R		E		L	
D	E	N	T	I	S	T	S		A	N	S	W	E	R
	A		R		T		C		N		I		V	
P	L	A	Y	G	R	O	U	N	D		D	E	A	R
					I		E		M		E		T	
H	A	I	R	B	A	N	D		A	U	N	T	I	E
	P		E								C		O	
C	O	F	F	E	E		P	R	O	T	E	I	N	S
	L		L		A		R		B					
W	O	K	E		S	T	A	R	V	A	T	I	O	N
	G		C		T		Y		I		R		W	
L	I	T	T	L	E		E	M	O	T	I	O	N	S
	S		E		R		R		U		B		E	
H	E	A	D	I	N	G	S		S	P	E	A	R	S

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	9	2	7	8	3	1	6	4
6	1	7	5	4	9	8	3	2
4	3	8	6	2	1	5	7	9
2	7	9	8	3	5	6	4	1
3	5	4	1	9	6	2	8	7
8	6	1	4	7	2	3	9	5
1	8	5	9	6	4	7	2	3
9	2	6	3	5	7	4	1	8
7	4	3	2	1	8	9	5	6

FAITH

Guidance of acharyas

Life is like a vast ocean. Just as waves rise and fall one after another, human life too alternates between hardship and comfort. A person stranded at sea desperately searches for help, and even a small raft becomes a priceless means of survival. In the same way, being caught in the endless cycle of birth and death is described as a disease – *piravi pini*. It resembles the plight of one who struggles in the ocean of existence, unable to reach the shore of liberation.

Valluvar declares that only those who surrender at the sacred feet of God can transcend the sufferings caused by repeated births (kural 10). Thanneerpalli Sri Krishnan Swami explained that a person must clearly understand three fundamental aspects of life: *avidya* (ignorance), *karma* (action and its consequences), and *vasana* (latent impressions). Ignorance of the distinction between the perishable physical body and the imperishable soul is known as *avidya*. Performing improper actions is termed *karma*, and the cultivated inclination or taste for such actions is called *vasana*.

Just as a small raft becomes a lifesaving support for a person stranded in the sea, the guidance of the acharyas enables a seeker to cross the vast ocean of samsara. Even the great sinner Kshatrabandhu was freed from the burden of his evil deeds through the compassionate guidance of sage Narada. An acharya reveals to us our true nature, explains the divine qualities of God, and teaches the eternal relationship between the individual soul and the Supreme. Sri Varaha Purana declares that we have paid a heavy price to obtain this rare human form. Therefore, this precious opportunity should not be wasted.

INBRIEF

Sensex falls 558 points on sell-off in IT shares

BSE Sensex fell 558 points on Thursday amid heavy selling in IT shares, as concerns over AI-led disruptions and waning hopes of a Fed rate cut after firm U.S. economic data weighed on investor sentiment. BSE Sensex declined 558.72 points, or 0.66%, to settle at 83,674.92. Tech Mahindra, Infosys and TCS tumbled nearly 6% each emerging as laggards on the Sensex. PTI

SEBI will take measures to cut regulation cost: Pandey

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) will take measures to reduce cost of regulation, said chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey. "Cost of capital is an important cost and it should come down. For all productive sectors, the access to finance should be available," Mr. Pandey said speaking on the sidelines of the 6th Annual Capital Market Conference on Thursday.

NPCI's international arm inks pact with Malaysia's PayNet

NPCI International Payments Ltd. (NIPL), the international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), has signed an agreement with Payments Network Malaysia Sdn Bhd (PayNet), to enable QR based merchant payments between India and Malaysia. Indians visiting Malaysia will be able to use UPI apps to make seamless cross border merchant payments at DuitNow QR acceptance touchpoints.

HUL Q3 PAT surges to ₹6,603 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The profit was driven by a one-off positive impact arising from Ice Cream business demerger

Hindustan Unilever Ltd. (HUL), for the quarter ended December 31, 2025, reported consolidated profit after tax (PAT) more than doubled to ₹6,603 crore year on year (YoY), primarily driven by a one-off positive impact arising from Ice Cream business demerger accounted for in accordance with the approved scheme of demerger and applicable accounting standards.

Excluding exceptional items, PAT grew 1% at ₹2,562 crore indicating the tough business environment, the company said.

During the quarter, HUL reported a consolidated YoY revenue growth of 6% to ₹16,235 crore.

"HUL delivered 5% underlying sales growth (USG) led by 4% underlying volume growth (UVG)," the company said.

"During the quarter, demand trends reflected early signs of recovery, underpinned by supportive policy measures. Against this backdrop, we delivered a competitive performance, with 6% revenue growth and 4% underlying volume growth," said MD & CEO Priya Nair.

Coal India profit falls 16% on lower offtake

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Coal India's third-quarter net profit declined 16% year-on-year (YoY) on lower coal offtake as power demand moderated amid a prolonged spell of monsoon, and on an increased share of renewables in power generation.

The State-owned coal producer posted a net profit of ₹7,166 crore in the December-ended quarter, as against ₹8,491 crore in the comparable period last year.

Coal offtake, that is the total volume of coal supplied, slipped about 3% YoY to 188.66 million tonnes (MT) during the reported quarter.

Net sales declined 5% YoY to ₹30,818 crore. Overall revenue also slipped 5% YoY to ₹34,924 crore during the period.

Production dipped marginally by 1% to 200.05 MT.

RBI spells out norms to keep loan recovery agents on leash

The regulator's directions, to be effective from July 1, also mandates a dedicated mechanism for redressal of recovery related grievances

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in a draft guideline issued on Thursday, has proposed to restrain bank employees or recovery agents to desist from employing harsh methods towards loan recovery.

Accordingly, they would be prohibited from using minatory or abusive language, sending 'inappropriate' messages either on mobile or through social media, making excessive calls to the borrower or guarantor, and calling outside prescribed hours and making threatening or anonymous calls.

Intimidating or harassing the borrower or guarantor or relatives, friends, co-workers either verbally or physically, including acts intended to humiliate them publicly will be classified as 'harsh methods'.

No bank employee or recovery agent can use or issue threat of violence or other similar means to harm the borrower or guarantor or their family, assets or reputation, and make false or misleading representations to the borrower or guarantor, especially about the extent of the debt or the consequences of non- repayment, according to the provisions of the draft guidelines of the Second Amendment Directions, 2026, which relates to responsible business conduct by banks and other regulated entities towards engagement of recovery agents.

All banks must have a dedicated mechanism for redressal of recovery related grievances. To be called the Reserve Bank of India (Commercial Banks - Responsible Business Conduct) Second Amendment Directions, 2026, these directions will come into effect from July 1, 2026.

The RBI has invited public comment to the draft guidelines. With recovery agents found to be deploying harsh measures, the RBI has decided to issue comprehensive instructions on conduct related matters in recovery of loans and engagement of recovery agents to all regulated entities.

This was proposed during the last monetary policy announcement.

For responsible lending conduct, all banks are required to put in place a policy on recovery of loans, engagement of recovery agents for recovery of loan dues, and taking possession of security.

The policy will cover aspects related to eligibility and due diligence criteria for engagement of recovery agents, specified activities, code of conduct, and performance evaluation standards, the RBI said.

Debt diktat

The RBI proposes to restrain bank employees and recovery agents from using abusive language, sending inappropriate messages and making too many calls to borrowers and guarantors

- They cannot call them outside the prescribed hours or make threatening or anonymous calls
- Harassing kin and friends of borrower or guarantor, including humiliating them publicly, to be classified as 'harsh'

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	83,675	-0.66
US Dollar	90.61	0.18
Gold	1,60,900	-0.24
Brent oil	67.97	-2.96

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2211.80	-22.60
Adani Ports	1543.70	-9.70
Apollo Hosp	7539.00	32.00
Asian Paints	2410.50	18.00
Axis Bank	1340.00	-7.30
Bajaj Auto	9840.00	-29.50
Bajaj Finserv	2037.10	10.10
Bajaj Finance	999.10	30.15
Bharat Elec	443.90	6.35
Bharti Airtel	2014.50	2.40
Cipla	1330.00	-19.90
Coal India	419.15	-4.10
Dr Reddys Lab	1274.90	4.60
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	DE*
Eicher Motors	7943.00	172.00
Eternal Ltd.	298.00	-2.70
Grasim Ind	2925.50	-7.10
HCL Tech	1476.10	-75.50
HDFC Bank	920.60	-6.50
HDFC Life	702.70	1.60
Hindalco	964.40	-1.55
Hind Unilever	2409.70	-53.20
ICICI Bank	1430.00	23.90
IntGlobeAvi	4982.80	-31.00
Infosys	1386.00	-85.90
ITC	317.45	-0.80
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	267.55	-2.75
JSW Steel	1247.90	-1.30
Kotak Bank	426.25	-3.30
L&T	4185.90	15.50
M&M	3593.10	-81.80
Maruti Suzuki	15326.00	-86.00
Max Healthcare	1062.90	7.75
NestleIndia	1305.50	0.20
NTPC	368.25	-0.20
ONGC	276.35	1.75
PowerGrid Corp	293.90	-0.55
Reliance Ind	1448.90	-19.80
SBI Life	2022.10	-4.20
State Bank	1192.40	9.50
Shriram Finance Ltd.	1082.80	26.00
Sun Pharma	1714.90	3.80
TataConsumerProduct	1149.30	-3.30
Tata Steel	208.11	0.52
TCS	2750.10	-159.70
Tech Mahindra	1536.60	-97.80
Titan	4275.80	26.70
Tata Motors PV	383.45	-1.25
Trent Ltd.	4285.60	66.70
UltraTech Cement	13029.00	60.00
Wipro	219.08	-10.73

DE: Demerged Entity

Rolls Royce says eyeing tenfold rise in India sourcing

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

British defence and aerospace company Rolls-Royce said on Thursday that it is exploring opportunities in India that could potentially lead to a tenfold increase in the company's supply chain sourcing from India.

Rolls-Royce said in a statement, a day after CEO Tufan Erginbilgic met PM Narendra Modi, it is exploring opportunities in India including potential co-development of next-generation combat jet engine and partnerships to make engines for the Indian Army, Navy and Coast Guard and potentially power solutions for critical infrastructure and industry.

The initiatives could more than double the workforce supporting Rolls-Royce and partners to about 10,000 in India.

Growth sans inflation an achievement, says Finance Minister

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Naysayers who claim the Indian economy is dead are mocking the people of India, who are contributing to India's growth, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday while replying to the debate on the general Budget in the Rajya Sabha.

She said growth without inflation is an achievement of the entire country. "That is, you are having a good, high rate of growth of the GDP and there is low inflation, which is being held at that kind of a level continuously," she said.

Rejecting a recent statement by Opposition Leader in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi that the country's economy is dead, she said "These kinds of naysayers are only mocking at the people of India, who are really doing their bit to contribute to India's growth," the Finance Minister said adding, "The economy is no longer narrow, and it's not just confined to the elite. The middle-class basket is widening. Between 2013-14 and 2024-25, the number of taxpayers, that is, people filing returns or TDS deducted, rose from 5.26 crore to 12.13 crore."

Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Rajya Sabha. SANSAD TV

Indraprastha Gas' Q3 net up 25%, to pay ₹3.25 interim

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Indraprastha Gas Ltd. (IGL)'s third quarter net profit rose 25% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹358.57 aided by an increase in sales and better realisation.

The city gas distributor's gross sales value grew 8% to ₹4,465 crore.

On a standalone basis, Indraprastha's sales volume climbed 3% with average daily sales rising to 9.43 million metric standard cubic metre/day (MMSCMD) from 9.11 MMSCMD a year earlier.

The volume of piped natural gas (PNG) sold during the quarter increased 4% while that of compressed natural gas (CNG) increased 3%.

Along with the results, the board declared an interim dividend of ₹3.25 per equity share.

Mahindra unveils e-three-wheeler Udo at ₹3.84 lakh

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Mahindra Last Mile Mobility unveiled electric three-wheeler Mahindra Udo, a product from its plant in Telangana, in which the Group committed an investment of ₹1,000 crore.

While the ₹1,000 crore commitment is spread over eight years, ₹500 crore has already been invested in the plant, including in automated battery assembly as well as robotised production lines.

"We are ready to produce several thousand units... ramping up production as we speak," MD and CEO Suman Mishra said at a media interaction. The vehicle is priced at a little over ₹3.84 lakh ex-showroom. For a limited period, it will come for ₹3,58,999.

Mahindra UDO

Zydus to pay Astellas $120 million to settle Mirabegron litigation

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Zydus Lifesciences has agreed to pay Astellas Pharma $120 million to settle the U.S. patent litigation with the latter over generic bladder disorder drug Mirabegron.

Under the agreement, Zydus will pay Astellas an aggregate amount of $120 million.

Additionally, it will pay a prepaid per unit licensing fee on units of Zydus' generic Mirabegron sold in the U.S. from the date of settlement agreement till September 2027.

The pact concludes all litigation between Astellas and the two firms relating to Myrbetriq and Mirabegron.

In April 2025, the United States District Court for the District of Delaware, on a case filed by Astellas against Zydus on the validity of a U.S. patent, passed an order in favour of the innovator. Earlier this week, another Indian generic drugmaker Lupin announced the signing of a settlement and license agreement under which Lupin will be paying $90 million to Astellas and continue to sell Mirabegron.

READ
FRONTLINE
LEADING THE DEBATE SINCE 1984
EVERY FORTNIGHT.
TO SUBSCRIBE, VISIT
www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe

CWRDM e-Tender Notice
E-Tenders are invited for Supply and Installation of IT Equipments
Tender ID:
2026_KCSTE_834505_1
For details:
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Last Date :
27.02.2026, 3.00pm

Government of Rajasthan
Local Self Government Department
(Directorate of Local Bodies, Rajasthan, Jaipur)
G-3, Rajmahal Residency, Near Civil lines, Railway Crossing, Jaipur
Tel No.:+91 141 2222469 Fax No.: +91 141 2222403
wesbsite: www.lsg.urban.rajasthan.gov.in
No.: F55( )PA/CE(SBM)/ SBM-2/Legacy waste/cluster1-7/2025/2012 Date: 28/01/2026
CORRIGENDUM
Online Technical and Financial Bids in Single Stage two envelops are invited on behalf of Governnor of Rajasthan by State Mission Director, SBM (U) 2.0, DLB vide NIB no. 83606 dated 26.12.2025 for the works "Bioremediation of Legacy Waste (Total 73.70 Lakh Cum) at old Dumpsites in 153 ULBs under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0 cluster 1 to 7". The bidding schedule is being revised for Cluster 1 to 7 as follows:

Sl No.	Event	Earlier	Revised
1	Bid Document submission end Date & Time	29.01.2026 at 15:00 Hrs	13.02.2026 at 15:00 Hrs
2	Submission of DD/BG etc. for bid security	29.01.2026 at 15:00 Hrs physically at DLB office separately for each work package.	13.02.2026 at 15:00 Hrs physically at DLB office separately for each work package.
3	Technical Bid Opening Date & Time	29.01.2026 at 16:00 Hrs	13.02.2026 at 16:00 Hrs

All other terms and conditions will remail unchanged.
DIPR/C/2201/2026 State Mission Director, SBM (U)

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Ltd.
D-Block, Swasthya Bhawan, C-Scheme, Jaipur - 302005
Ph. No. 0141-2223887, Fax No. 0141-2228065, E-Mail-edepmrmsc-rj@nic.in
Ref. No. : F-8() RMSC/EPM/M-3/NIB-881/2025-26/1659 Dated :- 09/02/2026
Corrigendum / Addendum
Bid for item X-Ray Machine (500 ma) (NIB-881) are invited from interested bidders up to Date: 24/02/2026 : 06:00 P.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on Procurement portal website https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or www.dipronline.org or https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in or website http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in.
UBN No. : MSC2526GLOB00068
Executive Director (EPM)
Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation
Raj.Samwad/C/25/19627

DELHI TRANSCO LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS
Delhi Transco Ltd., a Government of NCT of Delhi Undertaking, intends to invites online tender (No.- T25R220472) for the following packages:
Package-I: Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning for HTLS Re-Conductoring for Bamnauli-Najafgarh, Najafgarh-Tikrikalan-Kanjhawala, Kanjhawala-Bawana, Bawana-DSIIDC Bawana 220kV D/C ACSR Zebra Transmission Line alongwith replacement of associated equipments/Busbars at interconnecting substations of DTL (Delhi) on trunkey basis.
Package-II: Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning for HTLS Re-Conductoring of 220 kV Gopalpur-Timarpur-Subzi Mandi Transmission Line at interconnecting substation of DTL (Delhi) on turnkey basis.
Package-III: Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning for HTLS Re-Conductoring of 220kV D/C Geeta Colony-Patparganj, Patparganj-IP and IP-Pragati Zebra Conductor Transmission Line along with replacement of associted equipments/ Busbars at interconnecting substations of DTL (Delhi) on turnkey basis.
Package-IV: Design, Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning for HTLS Re-Conductoring of DSIIDC Bawana-Narela-Mandola 220 kV D/C ACSR Zebra Transmission Lines along with replacement of associated equipments and Busbars at interconnecting substations of DTL (Delhi) on turnkey basis
For complete details of the tender please visit following websites :-
https://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in (Tender ID No. For Package: I - 2026_DTL_286636_1, Package: II - 2026_DTL_286640_1, Package: III - 2026_DTL_286645_1 and Package: IV - 2026_DTL_286650_1) respectively and www.dtl.gov.in with Unique No. DTL-9883-110226
Last date for bid submission:- 30.03.2026 at 01.30 P.M.
All corrigendum /addendum / amendments/ date of extension / clarifications etc. to this e-tender will be hosted on the above website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED, JODHPUR
(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING)
NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003
PHONE: (0291) 2742223 FAX: (0291) 2746539
SHORT-TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
Short-Term E-Procurement Tenders are invited for purchase of ACSR Dog Conductor under TN-2129 (UBN JVV2526GLOB00882).
Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl and also at http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)
बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800 180 6045
Raj.Samwad/C/25/19719

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग प्रथम जोधपुर
क्रमांक 16384 निविदा सूचना संख्या: 34 वर्ष 2025-2026 दिनांक 30.01.2026
NIB No.PWD2526A5435
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से सीआरआईएफ योजनान्तर्गत स्वीकृत विभिन्न सड़क निर्माण कार्य हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग / डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग / रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ईटेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया हेतु ऑनलाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in व http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर ऑनलाईन सम्पादित की जायेगी। कार्यवार यू.बी.एन संख्या निम्नानुसार है।
1. PWD2526WLOB22165
ई-साईन
(नेमी चन्द शर्मा) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. संभाग प्रथम, जोधपुर
DIPR/C/2308/2026

JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
Office:VidyutBhawan, Janpath, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur 302005
Website: www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM-I)
MM Building, Old Power House Premises, Near Ram Mandir, Banipark, Jaipur-302006
Tel. 0141-2208098, E-Mail id:- semm1@jvvnl.org
NOTICE INVITING BID
e-tenders are invited for purchase of LT XLPE Insulated Aerial bunched cable with bare messenger wire (1Cx25+25 Sq. mm.) (TN-5071) (UBN-VVN2526GLOB00979), 2-Core PVC Armoured Cable (2Cx4 Sq. mm.) (TN-5072) (UBN-VVN2526GLOB00980), ACSR DOG Conductor (TN-5073) (UBN-VVN2526GLOB00981), Fabricated steel items (Welded) 33 KV V Cross Arm (angle) with clamp and top hamper, 11 KV V Cross Arm (angle) with clamp (65x65x6) and top hamper, 11 KV Top Hamper without clamp, LT Brackets 4 ft. long , LT Brackets 4 ft. long (TN-5074) (UBN- VVN2526GLOB00983), 33 KV GI Pins (TN-5075) (UBN-VVN2526GLOB00982), 11 KV Pin Insulators (Porcelain type) (TN-5076) (UBN- VVN2526GLOB00984), 11 KV Pin Insulators (Polymer type) (TN-5077) (UBN- VVN2526GLOB00985), 11 KV 45 KN Disc Insulators T&C (Polymer type) (TN-5078) (UBN- VVN2526GLOB00986), 11 KV Horn Gap Fuse Set with PI (TN-5079) (UBN- VVN2526GLOB00987), Fixed (Jaw) and Moving (Pipe) Contact Assembly for 33 KV and 11 KV Isolators (TN-5080) (UBN-VVN2526GLOB00988).All the details regarding tenders are available at web site http://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.
JPR-3121 (2026)
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM-I)
For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507
Raj.Samwad/C/25/19727

MOSCOW

Russia confirms ban on WhatsApp, says it failed to abide by the law

REUTERS

Russia has blocked the popular messaging service WhatsApp over its failure to comply with local legislation, the Kremlin said on Thursday, urging its 100 million Russian users to switch to Max, a domestic messaging service that lacks end-to-end encryption and that activists have called a potential tool for surveillance. AFP

WASHINGTON

Immigration crackdown ends in Minnesota, says Trump official

REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump's spokesperson Tom Homan on Thursday announced the end of an aggressive immigration operation in Minnesota that triggered large protests and nationwide outrage following the killing of two U.S. citizens. Mr. Homan raised the prospect that the officers would move to another location. AFP

BEIJING

China calls Taiwan's leader Lai a 'war instigator' for his remarks

AFP

China called Taiwan's leader Lai Ching-te a "war instigator" on Thursday after he warned in an interview that Beijing would target countries in the region should it seize control of the self-ruled island. "Lai Ching-te's remarks once again exposed his stubborn pro-independence nature, proving that he is a peace disruptor." AFP

ISLAMABAD

Pak. launches its indigenous Earth Observation Satellite from China

GETTY IMAGES

Pakistan on Thursday successfully launched its second indigenous Earth Observation Satellite, EO-2, from China's Yangjiang Seashore Launch Centre, according to the state media. The satellite is designed to significantly enhance the country's earth observation and high-resolution imaging capabilities. PTI

Polling ends as Bangladesh votes in first election post-Hasina govt.

Voting concludes across 36,031 election centres for both the general election and a referendum on constitutional changes; 2,028 candidates from 51 political parties contest the polls; Hasina's Awami League remains banned from participation

Kallol Bhattacherjee
DHAKA

Crucial moment: An electoral official opens a ballot box as counting starts at a polling station in Dhaka on Thursday. AFP

Bangladesh completed polling for the general election and referendum for constitutional changes on Thursday. Polling started in 36,031 election centres at 7.30 a.m. and ended at 4:30 p.m. with the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) accusing Jamaat-e-Islami, leader of an 11-party alliance, of intimidating voters in various locations. In total, 2,028 candidates are in the fray for the election that will pave the way for handover of power from the interim government to an elected administration.

Soon after the polling process, party symbols-bearing white ballot papers of the parliamentary election and pink ballots containing 'Yes' and 'No' votes for the referendum on 'July Charter' were collected for overnight counting. "The spontaneous participation of voters, the responsible conduct of political parties, the restraint shown by candidates, and the professionalism of all institutions involved in the electoral process collectively demonstrated that our commitment to democracy remains unwavering," said Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser to the Interim Government.

Several incidents of violence and voter influencing were reported from different parts of the country. The BNP Election Steering Committee alleged that, in Khulna, a leader of the metropolitan BNP sustained injuries in a scuffle with Jamaat workers after he reportedly "opposed manipulating votes".

This election has witnessed participation of 51 political parties, including Jatiyo Party that was an ally of deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Ms. Hasina's Awami League remains banned and was not in the field for the first time in Bangladesh's history. According to the Election Commission, till 2 p.m., poll percentage was around 47.91% with expectation of greater footfall towards the conclusion of the poll. While brisk polling was witnessed in most parts of Bangladesh, low voting was reported from Awami League's strongholds. In a statement sent to media, Ms. Hasina, who is based in India, said "workers of the Awami League, and well-wishers and minority religious communities of Bangladesh were being intimidated over the past days".

The Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi reiterated its position on the need for a "free, fair, inclusive and credible election in Bangladesh". Official spokesperson of the MEA Randhir Jaiswal said the interim government of Bangladesh had invited India to send observers. "We have not sent our observers to Bangladesh."

Imran Khan is left with only 15% vision in right eye, says amicus curiae

Stanly Johny

Imran Khan

The Supreme Court ordered Pakistani authorities to set up a medical board to examine Khan's eye

Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan has told a court-appointed lawyer that authorities at Rawalpindi's Adiala jail repeatedly ignored his complaints about deteriorating eyesight and that he is now left with only "15% vision" in his right eye.

Advocate Salman Safdar, appointed as amicus curiae by the Pakistani Supreme Court, visited Mr. Khan at Rawalpindi's Adiala jail and filed a detailed report about his living conditions and health on February 10.

In the report, seen by *The Hindu*, Mr. Safdar wrote that he personally observed that Mr. Khan, 73, "appeared visibly perturbed and deeply distressed by the loss of vision and the absence of timely and specialised medical intervention".

Flagging the "gravity" of Mr. Khan's condition, Mr. Safdar wrote that it is "imperative that the seriousness of the condition be independently ascertained without delay". He recommended that Mr. Khan, founder of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, "be examined at the earliest by a team of expert ophthalmologists".

Following Mr. Safdar's report, the Supreme Court on Thursday ordered Pakistani authorities to set up a medical board to examine Mr. Khan's eye, and allow him to speak with his children, local media reported.

Mr. Khan, who was arrested in August 2023, was initially kept in the district jail in Attock, and then moved to Adiala in October where he has remained in solitary confinement. During the meeting with the lawyer, the cricketer-turned politician said he experienced "rapid and substantial" loss of vision from October last year, which he repeatedly reported to jail authorities. But his concern was "neither taken seriously nor addressed", Mr. Khan said.

Sudden loss of vision

He added that he "subsequently suffered a sudden and complete loss of vision in his right eye", following which an ophthalmologist from PIMS hospital, Islamabad, Dr. Muhammad Arif, was called to examine him.

According to a medical condition report prepared by Dr. Rana Imran Sikandar of PIMS, which is also seen by *The Hindu*, Mr. Khan was diagnosed with "right central retinal vein occlusion" (a clot that blocks the main vein carrying blood away from the retina, a serious condition which causes sudden or gradual vision loss). Earlier this month, he was administered an "anti-VEGF intravitreal injection" (which injects medication directly into the eye's vitreous gel) in an operation theatre, stated the report.

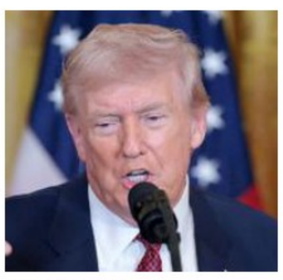
"Despite the treatment administered, including an injection", Mr. Khan told the amicus curiae, he has been left with only 15% vision in his right eye. "Throughout the interview, his eyes were watery, and he repeatedly used a tissue to wipe them, reflecting physical discomfort," wrote Mr. Safdar in his report.

Last week, jail authorities had said that Mr. Khan was briefly taken from prison to a hospital in Islamabad for an eye procedure, sparking concerns among his family and supporters. The PTI complained that they were not informed in advance and alleged that the former Prime Minister was being denied proper medical care. Then the Supreme Court appointed Mr. Safdar as a "friend of the court" to visit Mr. Khan and file a report.

The PTI, Mr. Khan's party, welcomed the Supreme Court decision to appoint a medical board to examine him. "The Supreme Court's order for a complete eye check-up of Imran Khan vindicates the party's longstanding concerns about his deteriorating health and denial of timely, independent medical care in custody," the party said in a statement.

Will pursue talks with Iran to see if deal possible, says Trump

Reuters
WASHINGTON



Donald Trump

U.S. President Donald Trump held talks with Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday to discuss renewed U.S. nuclear talks with Iran, and said he told the Israeli Prime Minister that negotiations with Tehran would continue to see if a deal can be reached.

Mr. Netanyahu, who had been expected to press Mr. Trump to widen diplomacy with Iran beyond its nuclear program to include limits on Tehran's missile arsenal, stressed "the security needs of the State of Israel in the context of the negotiations," his office said in a statement.

In their seventh meeting since Mr. Trump returned to office last year, Mr. Netanyahu was looking to influence the next round of U.S. discussions with Iran following nuclear negotiations held in Oman last Friday.

The two leaders spoke behind closed doors for nearly three hours in what Mr. Trump described as a "very good meeting".

BNP appears to have edge amid counting in Bangladesh poll

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) appears to have the edge over its once ally Jamaat-e-Islami in the crucial general elections on Thursday to elect a new government to replace the interim administration, which took charge after the collapse of the Awami League regime in August 2024.

Election officials and media reports said early results gave an edge to the BNP with its nominees leading in over 175 seats, out of 300 constituencies nationwide, while Jamaat candidates leading in 30 seats.

The voting for the 13th parliamentary elections was held along with a referendum on the implementation of the July National Charter.

Sport

Aishwary claims 50m rifle 3P gold

SHOOTING

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Indian sweep: Winner Aishwary with silver medallist Niraj, left, and Sheoran, right, the bronze winner. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar hit a 10.7 in the final shot to clinch the 50m rifle 3 positions (3P) gold in the Asian Rifle/ Pistol Championship at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range here on Thursday.

The 25-year-old pipped silver-medallist Niraj Kumar while Akhil Sheoran took bronze as India completed a clean sweep in the event.

Niraj, for whom this is the first individual international medal, went into the 35th and final shot with a 0.2-point lead over Aishwary. He fired first and hit a 10.3, giving Aishwary a target of 10.6 to win the gold. The World Championship silver medallist held his nerve and hit a superb 10.7 to leap over Niraj and secure the top prize.

He finished with 362.0 while Niraj had 361.8. Sheoran's final score was 343.5.

The trio of Aishwary, Niraj and Sheoran also won the team gold with Japan and Kazakhstan taking the silver and bronze medals, respectively.

In the junior men's finals, Adriyan Karmakar secured his second gold of the championship with 353.2. It was 4.7 more than silver medallist Dmitriy Kim of Kazakhstan. India's Manvendra Singh Shekhawat (338.6) won bronze.

The championship will conclude on Friday.

Abhishek edges out Parv for the 94kg gold

Sports Bureau

Abhishek Nipane overcame a strong challenge from youngster Parv Chaudhary to win the men's 94kg gold medal by one kg margin at the National weightlifting championships in Modinagar on Thursday.

The results (winners only):
Men: 88kg: G. Ravi Shankar (RSPB) snatch 140kg, clean and jerk 182kg, total 322kg; **junior:** Sandeep Das Roy (TN) 146kg, 176kg, 322kg; **youth:** Shah Hussain (Har) 117kg, 158kg, 275kg.
94kg: Elite: Abhishek Nipane (Mah) 143kg, clean and jerk 191kg, total 334kg; **junior:** Parv Chaudhary (UP) 149kg, 184kg, 333kg; **youth:** Rehan Khan (Chg) 125kg, 161kg, 286kg.

Voting open for the eighth edition of *Sportstar* Aces Awards

Sports Bureau

The year 2025 was one to cherish for Indian sports.

The men's cricket team claimed convincing title wins at the Champions Trophy and Asia Cup, further asserting its dominance in white-ball cricket.

The women went one better when they claimed the ODI World Cup on home soil.

India also clinched the inaugural Blind Women's T20 World Cup title, while the under-19 women's team successfully defended its title in the T20 World Cup too.

At the individual level, Divya Deshmukh's triumph at the Women's Chess World Cup was a standout moment.

In shooting, India had winners aplenty. Samrat Rana became the first Indian pistol shooter to be crowned World champion in an Olympic discipline when he won the 10m air pistol event in Cairo.

Suruchi Singh bagged 10m air pistol gold medals in three consecutive World Cups.

Boxer Jaismine Lamboria had a memorable 2025, punching her way to the Worlds crown in Liverpool. Sheetal Devi became the first armless sportswoman to win gold at the World Archery Para Championships.

It is time to celebrate these and every other landmark victory of the year at the eighth edition of the *Sportstar* Aces Awards.

25 categories

There are 25 categories of awards this year.

The voting lines are open for the five Popular Choice Awards: Sportstar of the Year – Male and Female, National Team of the Year, Club/State Team of the Year, and Sporting Moment of the Year.

You can cast your vote in favour of your favourite nominee by scanning the QR code below until February 28.

The winners of the 19 Jury Awards will be chosen by an elite panel headed by legendary Indian cricketer Sunil Gavaskar.

Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra, former India hockey captain M.M. Somaya, chess great Viswanathan Anand, and Olympians Anjali Bhagwat and Aparna Popat complete the jury.

There will also be a separate Chairperson's Award for Sports for Social Good, which will honour individuals or organisations that have used the power of sports to make our world a better place.

DEFINING MOMENT

Varun's spell broke the back of our chase: Namibia captain Erasmus

R.V. MOORTHY

I thought after the PowerPlay we had, maybe a bit of dew settling might make it tough for the spinners in the back half of that innings. We really felt after 26 overs of cricket that we were in with a chance, and unfortunately that spell of Varun broke the back of our chase — Namibia skipper Gerhard Erasmus, who claimed four for 20.

PAYING TRIBUTE

Warne was a big influence on my career, says Ben Manenti

PTI

Spinner Ben Manenti, an architect of Italy's maiden T20 World Cup win, credited the influence of the late Shane Warne on his career while rising through the ranks in Australia. "Obviously, growing up in Australia and watching Warne bowl, he was a hero for all spinners. He was a big influence on my career," Manenti said.

PUNISHMENT

Nabi fined for disobeying umpire's decision in defeat to South Africa

AP

Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi was fined 15 per cent of his match fee for disobeying the umpire's decision during the T20 World Cup loss to South Africa in Ahmedabad. At the start of the 14th over of Afghanistan's innings, Nabi engaged in a prolonged argument with the umpires over bowler Lungi Ngidi's wrist band.

TURNING POINT

Hope hails Motie after his heroics in the victory over England

EMMANUAL YOGINI

West Indies captain Shai Hope paid tribute to Gudakesh Motie after the latter spun the team to victory over England in the T20 World Cup. "He (Motie) is one of our class bowlers. He has shown his class again on the world stage. He has brought something else to his game and it is benefitting us a lot here in the middle overs".

Kishan, Hardik dazzle as India eases past Namibia

The two batters smash half-centuries to power the hosts to 209 for nine; after nearly keeping pace in the first six overs of the chase, the visitors unravel as Varun bamboozles Erasmus & Co.

T20 WORLD CUP

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Under the hazy night sky at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Thursday, Ishan Kishan (61, 24b, 6x4, 5x6) and Hardik Pandya (52, 28b, 4x4, 4x6) garnered the applause of a boisterous crowd with blistering half-centuries.

As the night wore on, Varun Chakaravarthy (2-0-7-3) bamboozled the Namibia batters with his assortment of tricks.

Theirs were the defining contributions as India romped past Namibia by 93 runs in the T20 World Cup Group-A contest. Chasing 210, Gerhard Erasmus & Co. folded up for 116.

Lead performers: Kishan got India off to a flier before Hardik's fireworks took it past the 200-run mark. Varun's three-wicket haul derailed Namibia's chase. R.V. MOORTHY

No answer to spin

While the visitors nearly kept up with the asking rate in the first six overs, their limited exposure to quality spin was laid bare when Varun and Axar Patel hunted in tandem.

For the African side, Erasmus was a shining speck with figures of 4-0-20-4.

His spell of off-spin entailed a dash of improvisation - a few balls were bowled with a low, slingy arm while some others were delivered from well behind the crease.

India's batters will have to brace up for more such unorthodoxy when they square up against Pakistan's Usman Tariq in Colombo on Sunday.

After Namibia elected to field, India motored to 86 for one in the PowerPlay.

Drafted in for the unwell Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson lofted Ruben Trumpelmann over the sight-screen in the first over, and whipped Ben Shikongo for a brace of maximums. But an opportunity to make more of his time in the middle was squandered when he flicked Shikongo to deep midwicket.

Kishan duly pounced on the faintest of errors from Namibia's novice attack.

Having called for a change of willow at the start of the fifth over, he tucked into left-arm medium-pacer J.J. Smit - four sixes on the trot saw the ball sail over fine-leg, long-on and deep square-leg.

He backed it up with a pull along the ground for four to cap off a 28-run sixth over, and raised his half-century in a mere 20 balls.

Just as Namibia may have begun fearing the worst, a brief period of respite followed. Between overs seven and 12, India lost the wickets of Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma whilst accumulating just 20 runs.

But normal service resumed as Hardik and Shivam Dube added 81 runs off 39 balls for the fifth wicket.

Hardik was all brute force, targeting the arc from extra cover to cow corner with trademark swagger.

The slide

By snaring five Indian batters for just four runs in the final two overs, Namibia limited the damage to an extent. Just not enough to impact the verdict.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA
Ishan Kishan c Shikongo b Erasmus 61 *(24b, 6x4, 5x6)*, Sanju Samson c Steenkamp b Shikongo 22 *(8b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Tilak Varma c Smit b Erasmus 25 *(21b, 3x4)*, Suryakumar Yadav st. Green b Scholtz 12 *(13b, 1x6)*, Hardik Pandya c (sub) Leicher b Erasmus 52 *(28b, 4x4, 4x6)*, Shivam Dube run out 23 *(16b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Rinku Singh c Erasmus b Smit 1 *(6b)*, Axar Patel b Erasmus 0 *(1b)*, Varun Chakaravarthy (not out) 1 *(1b)*, Arshdeep Singh run out 2 *(2b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-9): 10; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 209.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-25 (Samson, 1.6 overs), 2-104 (Kishan, 7.1), 3-120 (Suryakumar, 10.1), 4-124 (Tilak, 11.5), 5-205 (Hardik, 18.2), 6-205 (Dube, 18.3), 7-206 (Axar, 18.6), 8-206 (Rinku, 19.3), 9-209 (Arshdeep, 19.6).

NAMIBIA BOWLING
Trumpelmann 4-0-38-0, Shikongo 3-0-41-1, Smit 4-0-50-1, Heingo 1-0-18-0, Erasmus 4-0-20-4, Scholtz 4-0-41-1.

NAMIBIA
Louren Steenkamp b Varun 29 *(20b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Jan Frylinck c Dube b Arshdeep 22 *(15b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton c Axar b Varun 13 *(13b, 1x4)*, Gerhard Erasmus c Tilak b Axar 18 *(11b, 2x6)*, J.J. Smit b Varun 0 *(2b)*, Zane Green hit wicket b Dube 11 *(19b)*, Malan Kruger c Bumrah b Axar 5 *(10b, 1x4)*, Ruben Trumpelmann b Bumrah 6 *(16b)*, Bernard Scholtz c Axar b Hardik 4 *(4b, 1x4)*, Ben Shikongo lbw b Hardik 0 *(1b)*, Max Heingo (not out) 0 *(2b)*; Extras (b-1, nb-3, w-4): 8; Total (in 18.2 overs): 116.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-33 (Frylinck, 3.4), 2-67 (Steenkamp, 7.1), 3-86 (Loftie-Eaton, 9.2), 4-86 (Smit, 9.4), 5-88 (Erasmus, 10.1), 6-94 (Kruger, 12.3), 7-111 (Trumpelmann, 16.4), 8-116 (Scholtz, 17.3), 9-116 (Shikongo, 17.4).

INDIA BOWLING
Hardik 4-0-21-2, Arshdeep 3-0-36-1, Dube 2.2-0-11-1, Bumrah 4-0-20-1, Varun 2-0-7-3, Axar 3-1-20-2.

Toss: Namibia.
Player-of-the-Match: Hardik.
India won by 93 runs.
India's next match:
Feb. 15 vs. Pakistan, Colombo (RPS), 7 p.m.

Clinical chase: Justin and Anthony made it a cakewalk for Italy. GETTY IMAGES

Mosca brothers propel Italy to a historic win

Shayan Acharya
MUMBAI

Fans turned up in large numbers at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday to cheer for Nepal. But in the end, it turned out to be a heartbreak for them as Italy assessed the conditions perfectly and pulled off a 10-wicket win to put its T20 World Cup campaign back on track.

Coming on the back of a defeat against Scotland in its opening fixture, not many expected Italy to put on a show against Nepal which lost narrowly to England. But with spinners Ben Manenti and Crishan Kalugamage making optimum use of the turning track and bowling Nepal out for a paltry 123, it turned out to be a cakewalk for Italy.

An unbroken 124-run partnership between openers Anthony Mosca (62 n.o., 32b, 3x4, 6x6) and Justin Mosca (60 n.o., 44b, 5x4, 3x6) saw Italy chase down the target inside 13 overs.

It was an emotional moment for the Mosca brothers, who denied Nepal a chance of a fightback with their aggressive batting. The two guided the team home to not only grab crucial points but also improve its net run rate.

Justin and Anthony's partnership was the highest between siblings in the tournament history, surpassing Kamran Akmal and Umar Akmal's 96-run stand against Australia in 2014.

Before the brothers hogged the limelight and stunned Nepal, Manenti and Kalugamage dominated the show.

Nepal lost wickets at regular intervals. Manenti, who opened the bowling, claimed two wickets conceding just nine runs, to set up Italy's first-ever win in the World Cup.

The scores: Nepal 123 in 19.3 overs (Ben Manenti 2/9, Crishan Kalugamage 3/18) lost to Italy 124/0 in 12.4 overs (Justin Mosca 60 n.o., Anthony Mosca 62 n.o.).
Toss: Italy; **PoM:** Kalugamage.

For Lion-Cachet, sport runs in the family

S. Shrivathsan
CHENNAI

The Netherlands all-rounder Zach Lion-Cachet is the new kid on the block, but he need not look beyond his parents for inspiration in sport.

The 22-year-old's father, Chad Lion-Cachet, represented the Dutch rugby team while his mother, Sarah Loosemore, is a former British No. 1 in tennis. It is no wonder that Lion-Cachet, a player with 24 international appearances (13 T20Is and 11 ODIs) to his name, has been turning to his 'pillars of strength' to make good strides at the upper echelons of the game.

"My father and mother massively influenced my drive while I grew up. They have been supporting me, and they are massive inspirations to me. It is not just about sport; they have been giving me so much in life as well. I am just thankful to them," the Oxford-born Lion-Cachet told *The Hindu* on the eve of the T20 World Cup Group A contest against the USA at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium here.

He is understandably "proud" to continue his family's tradition of competing on the grandest sporting stages. "Playing international cricket for the Netherlands is something that I do not take lightly. My father played for the Netherlands, but in a different sport. It is a dream come true for me to play at this level."

Lion-Cachet. GETTY IMAGES

Duel with Bellingham

Before Lion-Cachet found his calling in cricket, he had a tryst with football. He honed his football skills at the Southampton academy for 10 years and even went up against Jude Bellingham when the Real Madrid star was making waves as a teenager at Birmingham City.

"I loved playing football growing up, and my time at Southampton was a great part of my life. When I played against Bellingham, we must have been 14 or 15 years old," added Lion-Cachet. Can he now spin it to win it?

Sri Lanka thrashes Oman, makes it two out of two

Press Trust of India
PALLEKELE

Blazing fifties by Pavan Rathnayake and skipper Dasun Shanaka along with Kusal Mendis' assured half-century helped Sri Lanka register a statement 105-run win over Oman in their T20 World Cup Group B clash here on Thursday.

Rathnayake (60, 28b, 8x4, 1x6) and skipper Dasun Shanaka (50, 20b, 2x4, 5x6) returned to form while Kusal (61, 45b, 7x4) anchored the innings with a second successive half-century as Sri Lanka piled up 225 for five after Oman opted to bowl.

Oman's chase never quite recovered from early setbacks as it wilted under scoreboard pressure to be restricted to 120 for nine.

Skipper Jatinder Singh was cleaned up by Dushmantha Chameera in the first over. Aamir Kaleem and Hammad Mirza soon followed with single-digit scores as Oman slipped to 36 for three inside the PowerPlay.

Chameera struck twice with the new ball while off-spinner Maheesh Theekshana returned figures of two for 11 from his full quota of four overs.

There was brief entertainment when Wasim Ali counter-attacked Dushan Hemantha, clubbing the leg-spinner for two sixes in a row – one over deep midwicket and another forward square leg – lifting Oman to 75 for three in 11 overs.

But the recovery was short-lived as it crashed to 91 for six, losing three wickets off six balls.

Mohammad Nadeem, back after missing the opener, waged a lone battle with a valiant fifty as the 43-year-old hit his third T20I fifty in 71 appearances.

Former champion Sri Lanka now has two victories from as many matches, topping Group B, ahead of Australia and Zimbabwe, who have one win each.

On fire: Rathnayake brought up his maiden T20I fifty as the islanders amassed 225. AFP

The scores: Sri Lanka 225/5 in 20 overs (Kusal Mendis 61, Pavan Rathnayake 60, Dasun Shanaka 50, Jiten Ramanandi 2/41) bt Oman 120/9 in 20 overs (Mohammad Nadeem 53 n.o., Dushmantha Chameera 2/19, Maheesh Theekshana 2/11).
Toss: Oman; **PoM:** Rathnayake.

Main theme is to be adaptable and ready for any situation: Van Beek

The transition to night games in India adds another layer of uncertainty for the Netherlands; USA's Shayan highlights the struggles of the associate nations, points to limited fixtures, funding, and exposure; a third straight loss will knock the Americans out

T20 WORLD CUP

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Stating adaptability has been the Netherlands' quiet currency at this T20 World Cup, Logan van Beek insisted it will remain its guiding principle against the USA in their Group A clash at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium here on Friday.

"For us in this World Cup, it's been, 'Travel, see the ground, start the game, and quickly adjust.' Our main theme is to be adaptable and ready for any situation," he said, underlining a campaign shaped by constant movement and shifting conditions.

The transition to night games in India adds another layer of uncertainty. Van Beek noted that "conditions in the evening can be very different pitch-wise," particularly at Chepauk, where spin traditionally plays a major role.

Dew, however, could yet tilt the balance. "It could also get a little bit dewy and slide on, where the seamers might become more of an important option. The way we set up our team is that we've got a number of options to go to," he said, stressing that roles and preparation are being kept deliberately fluid.

The USA's Shayan Jahangir highlighted a broader associate-nation struggle, pointing to limited fixtures, funding, and exposure.

"We have a set schedule given by the ICC. We have 12 games across three series against two different nations (outside the ICC tournaments) in a year. The exposure and funding that we get from the ICC are lacking. I think we've been given the tag of associate nation, but we are nothing short of a great team, as you've seen in this World Cup. All teams that are tagged associate nations have put on a show, and they've given a very tough time to all these big teams.

"I think if ICC pays more attention to all the associate nations, you'll see more big games, and you'll see all these teams coming and changing their tag from associate nations to big teams as well".

Vital cog: American pacer van Schalkwyk, right, has been in fine wicket-taking form. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Today's matches

Australia vs Zimbabwe	Canada vs UAE	USA vs Netherlands
Colombo (RPS), 11 a.m.	**New Delhi,** 3 p.m.	**Chennai,** 7 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD	HEAD-TO-HEAD	HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 3	Played: 1	Played: 3
Australia 2 | Zimbabwe 1	Canada 0 | UAE 1	USA 0 | Netherlands 3

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & JIOHOTSTAR

Aussies wary of Zimbabwe challenge

Press Trust of India
COLOMBO

Captain Mitchell Marsh's fitness will be closely watched as an injury-hit Australia tries to ward off a tricky Zimbabwe in the T20 World Cup Group B match here on Friday.

Marsh missed the big win over Ireland on Wednesday with an internal testicular bleeding and Cricket Australia said that the all-rounder would require a considerable period of rest before returning to action. While his absence was not felt in the team's opener, Steve Smith has joined the squad as his cover.

Australia may bank on its big guns like opener Travis Head and Glenn Maxwell to come good against Zimbabwe, which has the wherewithal to surprise fancied teams.

But the uncertainty over Tim David's return could remain a concern for the Aussies; he sat out the last game with a hamstring issue.

Canada, UAE aim to bounce back

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Canada and the UAE would be eager to make amends when they meet in a Group D clash of the T20 World Cup here on Friday after suffering heavy losses in their openers.

Drawn alongside three top-10 teams – New Zealand, South Africa and Afghanistan – both UAE and Canada face a daunting and unlikely task of making the Super Eight stage.

Their campaigns got off to disappointing starts, with both sides suffering massive defeats. While Canada, lost the opener to South Africa by 57 runs, UAE was handed a 10-wicket thrashing by New Zealand.

Canada's lack of high-quality match exposure over the last four months was evident in the opener. The side was erratic against South Africa, taking some sharp catches but also spilling regulation chances and committing several misfields.

The UAE, will again bank on big-hitting captain Muhammad Waseem and Alishan Sharafu to bring their World Cup campaign back on track.

JK Tyres' Sanjay 'Hardy' Sharma passes away

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Sanjay Sharma, head of Motorsport and Corporate Communications of JK Tyres, passed away on Wednesday. He was 61. Sanjay, fondly known as 'Hardy', was one of the most influential persons in Indian motorsport and played a key role in advancing the careers of India's only two Formula One drivers Narain Karthikeyan and Karun Chandhok, apart from a host of other prominent Indian drivers including rallyist Gaurav Gill.

"Today is one of the blackest days in the history of Indian Motorsport," said Narain Karthikeyan in a social media post.

Karun Chandhok too paid rich tributes saying, "Heartbreaking news about Hardy's passing...outside of my family, nobody did more for my career or taught me more. So many great memories going from my childhood...."

Indian challenge in singles comes to a halt as Nagal and Rawat lose

CHENNAI OPEN

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

The Indian challenge in the singles event at the Chennai Open ATP Challenger fizzled out with the exit of Sumit Nagal and Sidharth Rawat in the second round at the SDAT Tennis Stadium here on Thursday.

The India No. 1 took the first set against Russian Petr Bar Biryukov and appeared on course for a routine win when he began to flounder.

He let slip three breakpoints in the second set which allowed his opponent to stay afloat.

Once into the tie-break, the left-hander, ranked No. 305, used his big serve to good effect to push the match into the decider. Also, he raced to a 3-0 lead.

Though Nagal fought back to level at three-all, Biryukov earned the decisive break in the eighth game and held serve to seal a 4-6, 7-6(2), 6-3 win in just over two hours.

Earlier, Rawat went down 2-6, 3-6 to Maks Kasnikowski.

Fightback: Biryukov came back from a set down to beat Nagal. R. RAGU

In the doubles event, the Indo-Thai pairing of Niki Poonacha and Pruchya Isaro advanced to the last four with a 6-4, 6-1 win over Lohithaksha Bathrinath and Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam.

They will face the all-Indian pairing of S.D. Prajwal Dev and Nitin Sinha for a spot in the final.

The results: Second round:
Luca Castelnuovo (Sui) bt Oliver Crawford (GBr) 1-6, 6-3, 7-6(5); Ilia Simakin bt Philip Sekulic (Aus) 4-6, 7-5, 7-6(1); Frederico Ferreira Silva (Por) bt Duje Ajdukovic (Cro) 6-3, 6-4; Petr Bar Biryukov (Rus) bt Sumit Nagal 4-6, 7-6(2), 6-3;.

Maks Kasnikowski (Pol) bt Sidharth Rawat 6-2, 6-3; Ioannis Xilas (Gre) bt Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) 6-3, 6-4.

Doubles: Quarterfinals:
Pruchya Isaro (Tha) & Niki Poonacha bt Lohithaksha Bathrinath & Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 6-4, 6-1.

Jay Clarke (GBr) & Mukund Sasikumar bt Siddhant Banthia & Saketh Myneni 7-5, 6-4; S.D. Prajwal Dev & Nitin Kumar Sinha bt Ishaque Eqbal & Manish Sureshkumar 4-6, 6-2, [10-8].

Felix Gill & Alastair Gray (GBr) bt Luca Castelnuovo (Sui) & Rio Noguchi (Jpn) 7-6(2), 7-6(5).

Man City stays on Arsenal's tail with Fulham win

PREMIER LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
MANCHESTER

Manchester City beat Fulham 3-0 to close in on Arsenal at the top of the Premier League on Wednesday, as Liverpool inflicted Sunderland's first home defeat of the season to ease the pressure on Arne Slot.

City cruised to victory with three goals in 15 first-half minutes to cut the gap at the top of the table to three points.

Antoine Semenyo struck for the fifth time since joining from Bournemouth last month before he set up Nico O'Reilly to chip in a second.

Erling Haaland then netted his first Premier League goal from open play for nearly two months before being handed a second-half rest by Pep Guardiola.

Liverpool remains in sixth but did its chances of Champions League football next season a power of good with an impressive 1-0 win at the Stadium of Light.

Effective: Semenyo slides in to score City's opener. AFP

Virgil van Dijk's header from a Mohamed Salah corner early in the second half was enough to earn just the English champions' second league win of 2026.

The Reds close to within two points of fifth-placed Chelsea and three of Manchester United in fourth.

Defeat ended Sunderland's proud record of having the only unbeaten home record left in the Premier League this season as it slipped to 11th.

Third-placed Aston Villa moved closer to sealing its place in next season's Champions League thanks to a late own goal from Jack Hinshelwood to beat Brighton 1-0.

Burnley ended a 16-game Premier League winless streak with a stunning comeback to beat Crystal Palace 3-2 and spoil Jorgen Strand Larsen's impressive home debut for the Eagles.

The results: Aston Villa 1 (Hinshelwood 86-og) bt Brighton 0; Crystal Palace 2 (Strand Larsen 17, 33) lost to Burnley 3 (Mejbri 40, Anthony 44, Lerma 45+3-og); Manchester City 3 (Semenyo 24, O'Reilly 30, Haaland 39) bt Fulham 0; Nottingham Forest 0 drew with Wolves 0; Sunderland 0 lost to Liverpool 1 (Van Dijk 61).

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Rakshan helps Andhra take narrow lead

Rakshan Sai scalped six wickets for Andhra (6/45) as it secured a narrow two-run first-innings lead in a drawn U-14 Boys South Zone tournament encounter in Vizianagaram on Thursday. Pursuing Andhra's 230, Karnataka was comfortably placed at 130 for one at the end of day one. But on the final day, it was bundled out for 228. Andhra reached 110 for two in its second essay as the contest petered out.

The scores: Andhra 230 in 66.1 overs & 110/2 in 26 overs (Raj 44, P.V.S.R. Varma 50 n.o.) drew with Karnataka 228 in 55.4 overs (Pavandeep R. Bharadakane 92, Rakshan Sai 6/45).

Karnataka women keep winning

Karnataka won its fourth match in a row in the BCCI Senior Women's One Day Trophy in Rajkot, beating Odisha by 92 run.

The scores: Karnataka 326/7 in 50 overs (Shubha Satheesh 90, Shishira A. Gowda 49, Niki Prasad 79, Soumya Verma 58) bt Odisha 234/9 in 50 overs (Madhuri Meheta 78, Sarita Meher 56).

Big win for Revive

BENGALURU: Revive FC thrashed Shooterz FC 4-0 in the BDFA B-division league championship in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Other results: B-div: Al Fateh FC drew with Bangalore Warriors FC 1-1; Mysore Vijayanagara FC bt MD. Sporting FC 2-0; FC Mangalore bt Bangalore Gunners FC 2-0.

TCS World 10K on April 26

The 18th edition of the Tata Consultancy Services World 10K Bengaluru will be held here on April 26. Registrations for all categories open on Friday at *https://tcsworld10k.procam.in/*

Entries for the Open 10K category will be accepted only from participants who submit a valid timing certificate, in accordance with the qualification criteria detailed on the official event website.

The race will be flagged off from Cubbon Road and the finish line will be on Cubbon Road, outside Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw Parade Ground.

Indian women get tough draw in U-17 Asian Cup

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India was on Thursday drawn alongside four-time champion Japan, Australia and Lebanon in a tough Group B for the AFC Under-17 Women's Asian Cup in China. The tournament will take place from May 1 to 17 in Suzhou.

The men, meanwhile, were drawn with Uzbekistan, Australia and North Korea in Group D in the final in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday. The tournament will take place from May 5 to 22 in Saudi Arabia.

My goal is to reach the final, says Ovtcharov

TABLE TENNIS

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

At 37, Dimitrij Ovtcharov isn't resting on his laurels and remains clear about one thing – he is here to compete.

The German star, a six-time Olympic medallist with two silver and four bronze medals across five Olympic Games and a former World No. 1 (2017), put in more than an hour of intense practice at the SDAT High Performance Centre here on Thursday, alongside his coach and sparring partner, fine-tuning his game for the WTT Star Contender table tennis tournament.

Ovtcharov. R. RAVINDRAN

India has often brought him good fortune. Ovtcharov won the singles titles at the ITTF Indian Open in 2010 and 2017 and followed it up with a semifinal finish at the WTT Star Contender in Goa in 2024.

"I've always performed very well in India and I hope to keep that going. I'm seeded second in the tournament and, of course, my goal is to reach the final.

"That's why I came here with high ambitions. But there are many strong players here and it definitely won't be easy," he said.

Tough

It's not been a bed of roses for the two-time European champion for he had a spinal disc problem (between the arm and neck) for a while even as he underwent surgery after the World Championships finals last year and missed quite a few tournaments. But he was back performing well in 2026, reaching the semifinals of the Star Contender Doha.

"I lost a lot of time due to the surgery, but now I have recovered 100% and am really excited to start playing more tournaments. I had a good start to the year and hope to keep it up and be more consistent. Also, in the last few months, I've beaten quite a few top players like Tomokazu Harimoto (WTT Champions Frankfurt in November 2025, Hugo Calderano (WTT Champions Doha 2026) and Li Shidong (Star Contender Doha in 2026).

When asked about his final stop, Ovtcharov said: "It will be the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics."

THE HINDU GROUP

VIT®
Vellore Institute of Technology
(Deemed to be University under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)

Presents

THE HINDU TECH SUMMIT 2026

Co-Presented by sify

Continuity Unbroken:
Building the Architecture of Resilience in a Connected World

This summit brings together visionary leaders, educators, and technologists to explore how learning, innovation, and governance converge to build a future that is stronger, smarter, and truly connected. Join us as we celebrate the power of education and the promise of innovation to create a resilient world.

TODAY

DAY 02

10:00 AM - 10:30 AM

Managing the Post Anthropic Plug-in Era

Mr Venkatesan Vijayaraghavan, COO, Virtusa

In conversation with **Mr John Xavier,** Tech Editor - The Hindu

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Beyond Compliance: Leveraging ISO 27001 for Integrated Data Security Management

Mr Bala Kumar M N, Head IT, Ucal Limited

Mr Sivaramakrishnan, Senior Vice President Information Security & CISO, M2P

Mr Ram P, EVP & CIO, Virtusa Corporation

Mr Maharajan Suriyanarayan, CISO & VP - IT, Navitas Life sciences

Moderated by **Mr Suresh Vijayaraghavan,** CTO, The Hindu

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

AI, Academia & Resilience: Building Institution & Talent for an Uncertain Future

Dr Sandhya Pentareddy, Executive Director, VIT

Mr Jagdish Ramaswamy, Board of Advisors & Advisor Digital Transformation JAYAM SCM Consultants Pvt. Ltd

Mr V Kumaraswamy, Author and Independent Consultant.

Dr Ashwin Sadasiva Kumar, Senior Vice President, Learning & Campus Head, Virtusa

Moderated by **Mr Nagaraj,** VP - Data & Analytics, The Hindu

12:30 PM - 1:00 PM

Engineering Continuity: How integrated IT services turn Risk into Resilience

Mr Jagan, Enterprise Manager, Skylark Information Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

In conversation with **Mr Suresh Vijayaraghavan,** CTO, The Hindu

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM LUNCH

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM

From Campus To Corporation: Building Industry-Ready talent for an AI First World

Ms Kadhambari S Viswanathan, Assistant Vice - President, VIT

In conversation with **Mr L V Navaneeth,** CEO, The Hindu Group

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Data Privacy as a Pillar of Resilience: Building Trust in a Digital Age

Mr Jegadeeswaran B, Senior General Manager IT, TVS Automobile

Mr A N Srinivasan, Senior Vice President and Head of Oracle Services at SRF Limited

Mr Shivashanmugam Muthu, Senior Director, Capgemini Technology Services India Limited

Mr M Sivasubramanian, VP & CDIO, Jk Fenner

Moderated by **Mr Nagaraj,** VP - Data & Analytics, The Hindu

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Bridging Academia and Industry: Building the Resilience Talent Pipeline

Dr Shankar Venugopal, Vice President – Technology Innovation and Intellectual Property, Mahindra & Mahindra

Mr Ashok Thiyagarajan, Vice President - L&D, Intellect Design Arena Limited

Mr Nelson Kulandairaj, Chief Digital Officer, Ciel HR

Dr Partha Sharathi Mallick, Pro - Vice Chancellor, VIT

Moderated by **Mr L V Navaneeth,** CEO, The Hindu Group

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Data Security & Privacy in the age of AI: Balancing innovation and Compliance

Mr Dheeraj Janbandhu, Sr Group Vice President-It, Digital Business, Indian Bank

Mr Vijay Anand Chidambaram, GenAI Data Analytics Leader, Amazon

Mr Sudhakar Adini, SVP, Global Head of EA and Technology, Allcargo Logistics Limited

Dr V S Kanchana Bhaaskaran, Vice - Chancellor, VIT

Moderator by **Mr Srinivasalu Thayam,** CTO, Aravind Eye Care System

6:00 PM

Vote of Thanks

Scan to watch the event live or log into
newsth.live/THTSYT2

Associate Partners: skylark | KBR | Tally POWER OF SIMPLICITY | virtusa

Realty Partner: G SQUARE GROUP PLOTS | VILLAS | APTS.

State Parters: Government of Karnataka | K-tech

TV Partner: புதிய தலைமுறை

Digital News Partner: THE FEDERAL VOICE OF THE STATES

Knowledge Partner: CIO Association

Industry Partner: Madras Management Association

Eco System Partner: Startup சிங்கம் SEASON-2

Gift Partner: nexus A GIFTING COMPANY

Digi Yatra to extend digital identity to foreign travel

Suresh Khadakbhavi, CEO, Digi Yatra Foundation, in conversation with L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, The Hindu Group, at *The Hindu* Tech Summit 2026 in Chennai. M. SRINATH

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Digi Yatra Foundation is working on extending its decentralised digital identity platform to international air travel, with passport-based enrolment already tested and discussions under way with global aviation bodies, its Chief Executive Officer Suresh Khadakbhavi said at *The Hindu* Tech Summit 2026 on Thursday.

Speaking with L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, The Hindu Group, at a fireside chat on 'Data Privacy & Security in Biometric Travel Platform', he said the planned feature would allow passengers to share verified digital credentials with both departure and destination airports, facilitating seamless travel without repeated identity checks.

"If you are travelling from Chennai to London, you can share credentials at Chennai, enjoy a seamless process, and when you reach London, you do not have to stand in two-hour queues again for immigration," he said.

Origin of Digi Yatra

Explaining the origins of Digi Yatra, Mr. Khadakbhavi said he had earlier been part of an advisory group for One ID, a global seamless air travel initiative, wherein discussions focused on privacy-preserving technologies and self-sovereign identity. Self-sovereign identity, he said, meant that individuals remained in control of their identity data, which led to the decision to build a decentralised ecosystem rather than a centralised identity platform.

Under Digi Yatra, enrolment is a one-time process, using Aadhaar-based verification. Users authenticate with an OTP at the airport verifier, after which limited KYC data – name, date of birth, gender, photograph, and the last four digits of the Aadhaar number – are retrieved. Mr. Khadakbhavi said this is significantly less information than what is routinely shared in other settings, such as hotel check-ins.

Digi Yatra CEO Suresh Khadakbhavi says the platform has 21 million app users. On an average, around 30%-35% of domestic flyers use Digi Yatra, while adoption has crossed 60% at some airports and terminals

To prevent misuse, the platform incorporates liveness detection and facial matching. A live selfie is captured and matched with the KYC photograph, after which the Aadhaar-linked image is discarded for privacy reasons and only the verified selfie is retained. Acknowledging the growing sophistication of deepfake technologies, he said multiple safeguards were built into the system.

Decentralised system

Addressing concerns over data security, Mr. Khadakbhavi said Digi Yatra follows a decentralised architecture in which credentials reside in users' own devices rather than in a central database. As a result, any attempt to breach the system would require compromising individual devices rather than a single repository.

He said the platform has 21 million app users across Android and iOS, with the number of uses reaching nearly 85 million over a three-year period. On an average, around 30%-35% of domestic air passengers use Digi Yatra, while adoption has crossed 60% at some airports and terminals.

Data security measures include encryption of data in transit using TLS 1.3 and encryption at rest using AES-256. Session tokens generated during enrolment are stored locally and expire after 90 days of inactivity.

Long-term objective

Mr. Khadakbhavi said the long-term objective was to eliminate the need for carrying physical identity documents and extend the identity ecosystem beyond airports to hotels, cab services, and other touchpoints.

Responding to a question from the audience on name mismatches, where Aadhaar permits initials while passports and airline tickets require fully expanded names, Mr. Khadakbhavi said this was a major operational challenge. To address this, he said multiple alternatives were being enabled, some of which were already live. They include validation through driving licences and password-based enrolment that captures the full name.

Support for PAN cards and other digital identity documents, he further said, would be rolled out soon to ensure consistent name validation across platforms.

'Higher education is key to eliminating inequality and powering economy'

At the inaugural session of *The Hindu* Tech Summit 2026, jointly organised by The Hindu Group, VIT, and Sify Technologies, VIT Founder and Chancellor G. Viswanathan points out that as India's economy grew, inequality widened. Only education can help to curb this situation, he says

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tech focus: G. Viswanathan, Founder and Chancellor, Vellore Institute of Technology; N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group; Suresh Nambath, Editor, *The Hindu*; L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, The Hindu Group; and Raju Vegesna, chairman and managing director, Sify Technologies, at the inauguration of *The Hindu* Tech Summit 2026 in Chennai on Thursday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Providing quality education and increasing college and university enrolment hold the key to improving the economy of the country and curtailing inequality, G. Viswanathan, Founder and Chancellor, Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), said in Chennai on Thursday.

At the inaugural session of *The Hindu* Tech Summit 2026, organised by The Hindu Group, Vellore Institute of Technology, and Sify Technologies, he said that in the past 20 years or so, India had grown to become the fourth largest economy, overtaking Japan in 2025. Inequality had grown too, with only about 70 lakh people declaring themselves as belonging to the higher income group.

'Policy needed'

"They say India is the most unequal country in the world, next only to Russia. Unless we provide education, this cannot be curtailed. It requires government policy," Dr. Viswanathan said. For this, education should reach all children belonging to poor families and the middle class.

He said Japan's per capita income was 12 times that of India. While India's per capita income stood at $2,900, Japan's was $36,000. While some government officials exuded confidence that India could overtake Germany in a few years, it should be borne in mind that Germany's per capita income was $58,000, 20 times that of India.

"In the year 2000, there were only nine billionaires in the country. Now, we have grown beyond 300," he said.

The National Education Policy's thrust on improving the gross enrolment ratio from the present 28% to 50% in the next 15 years would mean the number of students in colleges and universities must be doubled. This, Dr. Viswanathan said, meant someone had to pay for them. In the present scenario, the burden of higher education was mostly on the learner; the government spent barely 3% to 4% of the GDP, though the Kothari Commission in the 1960s had recommended an expenditure of at least 6% of the GDP. Owing to the lack of spending, only four crore children out of 14 crore eligible for higher education were in colleges and universities. Similarly, if India were to compete with developed countries, the spending on research and development should be increased manifold from the present 0.7%.

'Owing to the lack of spending, only four crore children out of 14 crore eligible for higher education are at colleges and universities'

Tracing the history of VIT, Dr. Viswanathan said that what started in 1984 with 180 students had grown to accommodate 1 lakh students from all Indian States and 75 other countries.

Role of AI

"AI is not a disruptor; AI is an evolution," said Raju Vegesna, chairman and managing director, Sify Technologies, in his keynote address. "Just as the Internet enabled us to reach places and share knowledge, we will get all those benefits from AI," he added. While India could be lagging behind in higher education, Mr. Vegesna exuded confidence that the country would have its unique way to address the transformations and the market. Giving an example, he said AI was like giving bicycle-riders a motorcycle; it ensured that they reached more places faster, though the tech would have to be adopted with caution. India's chances in the game were on how to adopt AI technology for the benefit of enterprises.

Among those present at the inaugural session were Santhosh T.G., Chief Digital Officer, Switch Mobility; N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group; Suresh Nambath, Editor, *The Hindu*; L.V. Navaneeth, Chief Executive Officer, The Hindu Group; and Suresh Balakrishna, Chief Revenue Officer, The Hindu Group.

'Resilience should be built into everyday operations of companies'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Experts at a panel discussion on 'Resilience by Design: Embedding Continuity into Organisational DNA using ISO 22301 and ISO 27031' at *The Hindu* Tech Summit 2026. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Experts from the technology, engineering, and financial services sectors said organisational resilience can no longer be treated as a compliance-driven exercise, but must be designed into everyday processes and decision-making.

They were taking part in a panel discussion on 'Resilience by Design: Embedding Continuity into Organisational DNA using ISO 22301 and ISO 27031' at *The Hindu* Tech Summit 2026 on Thursday.

The speakers said that while global standards, such as ISO 22301 and ISO 27031, provide structure, resilience could fail when it is approached as a standalone IT or risk function. Instead, leadership ownership, business-aligned recovery priorities, and continuous testing were identified as key to ensuring that continuity plans work under real-world disruption.

Speaking on how perceptions around continuity have evolved, Gokulavan Jayaraman, Infosec Leader at Mahindra Group, said organisations were moving away from a checklist-driven mindset.

"It is no longer a checkbox or documentation-only exercise. Organisations have understood this and are starting with the process and procedure because resilience has to be built into how applications and processes actually run," he said.

He added that modern systems must be designed assuming failure, with testing embedded across application, infrastructure, and business layers.

From an engineering and project-delivery perspective, Santhosh Murthy Neriyanuri, Senior Director, Operations, Kellogg Brown and Root, outlined a structured approach towards business impact analysis. He said all critical activities that depend on IT systems are first identified, followed by detailed data collection through interviews with project managers and stakeholders to understand what truly affects business outcomes. The impact is then classified as financial, reputational, or operational, and assessed accordingly.

Based on this four-step analysis, applications are identified and categorised into three tiers. Mission-critical systems form the first tier, the second tier comprises applications that are important but can tolerate longer downtime, and the third tier includes non-critical systems, said Mr. Neriyanuri.

Highlighting the importance of tailoring continuity objectives to business realities, Sivaramakrishnan N., Chief Information Security Officer, M2P Fintech, spoke about defining Minimum Business Continuity Objective levels during disruptions.

One approach, he said, is to focus on 'just enough' services to keep the business running, rather than trying to restore everything at once. He said organisations could operationalise this by defining a limited set of "golden signals" for observability – such as latency, traffic, error rates, and saturation – to quickly assess system health without relying on detailed reports or executive dashboards.

Addressing the need for regular validation, Saravanakumar R., Senior Director-Tech Risk Management, Sutherland, said continuity plans could not remain static. "Earlier, organisations were satisfied with doing one annual drill, but that approach is no longer sufficient," he said, adding that preparedness must be validated regularly across infrastructure, application, and business layers, with resilience built into how systems are deployed and supported during a crisis.

Teams, he said, were increasingly embedding resilience into applications through automation, frequent tabletop exercises and practices such as chaos engineering, in which failures are deliberately introduced to test response. Regular, repeated exercises helped to build operational memory and enabled organisations to respond more effectively when disruptions occur.

The discussion was moderated by Suresh Vijayaraghavan, Chief Technology Officer, *The Hindu*.

A session on 'Cyber Resilience in an AI-driven world: Balancing Risk, Recovery and Privacy' being held at the Tech Summit on Thursday. M. SRINATH

'Technology solutions evolving to deal with rising deepfake cases'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

While the rapid advancement of deepfake technology poses serious challenges, technological solutions are also evolving to detect and combat them, panelists said at *The Hindu* Tech Summit 2026.

Addressing a session on Cyber Resilience in an AI-driven world: Balancing Risk, Recovery and Privacy, Vinod R., Director-Platforms Solution, Sutherland, said artificial intelligence has democratised impersonation in a faster and cheaper way through deepfakes.

Two-factor or multiple-factor authentication is one of the detection methods to recognise deepfake-driven fraud. Detecting deepfakes, he added, requires analysing multiple signals rather than relying on a single image or video.

In the session moderated by N. Nagaraj, vice-president, Data and Analytics, *The Hindu*, the panellists said the prevalence of deepfakes was likely to increase in the coming years and emphasised that creating public awareness would go a long way in countering the threat.

Manjunath Prasad, Head (IT), TVS Mobility Private Limited, said technology was also adapting to keep pace with the challenges posed by deepfakes. However, it is an evolving journey and human resources must be unskilled to tackle AI, and business entities must proactively adapt to the technology, he said.

Pointing out that deepfakes are outsmarting original content, Balaji T.K., assistant vice-president, Engineering, Epimoney Private Limited, Flexi-Loans, said constructing a well-defined internal defence system was essential.

In the banking sector, users are being told not to trust unknown sources, and multiple authentication algorithms are being built for banking transactions. Organisations must also train employees and consumers to identify deepfake threats from an information security perspective, he said.

Speakers said corporate managements are becoming more informed about business performance and are factoring in elements such as cybersecurity tools into their decisions.

Ramkumar Dilli, Chief Information Officer and Head of Security, Myridius, said corporate managements, which earlier focused on recovery plans, now seek detailed metrics such as meantime to mitigate incidents.

He added that every organisation had begun assessing its security posture and maturity levels to strengthen its cyber resilience framework.

Personalised learning through AI is the future, says VIT vice-president

Sekar Viswanathan says VIT has been adopting innovative AI-based tools and systems to enhance the overall learning experience for students. He also underscores the importance of updating faculty members with technology to enlighten students about various developments

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) is actively working towards integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into the education sector, especially for personalised learning, as the future of academic advancement, VIT vice-president Sekar Viswanathan said at *The Hindu* Tech Summit 2026, hosted by *The Hindu*, presented by VIT, and co-presented by Sify Technologies, in Chennai on Thursday.

Noting that the institution has been adopting innovative AI-based tools and systems to enhance the overall learning experience for students, he said the faculty also need to be updated with technology to enlighten students about various developments.

Focus on future: VIT vice-president Sekar Viswanathan in conversation with Ramya Kannan, Chief of Bureau (Tamil Nadu), *The Hindu*, at the Tech Summit 2026. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Knowledge sessions

In a conversation with Ramya Kannan, Chief of Bureau (Tamil Nadu), *The Hindu*, on 'From Classrooms to Cosmos', Mr. Sekar elaborated on various facilities, such as a Teaching Learning Centre of Excellence and faculty development centres, where faculty members are encouraged to attend knowledge sessions on Agentic AI and AI in solar energy. Faculty training is key to providing quality education, he said.

Responding to a question on using AI and Internet of Things (IoT) in various disciplines, he said non-engineering schools also get the advantage of technology. For instance, law school students learn about cyber security law and AI in law, and agriculture students are exposed to drone technology and remote sensing in agriculture and smart farming. "We make sure that AI is used in every subject, and it is the common denominator so that students gain domain expertise and also learn to integrate technology in all fields," he said.

Highlighting programmes like curriculum for applied learning and adaptive curriculum for excellence, Mr. Sekar said students are allowed to study other subjects apart from their discipline. For instance, a mechanical engineering student can learn marketing or specialise in IoT. "We allow programme migration. Multidisciplinary education will increase their employability," he said.

Digital divide

Answering a question on digital divide and limitations to students' access to technology, he said VIT has started online courses to reach out to students in remote areas. The country has also made significant progress in providing technological access to students, he added.

Appreciating the State government's scheme to provide free laptops to students and the Centre's policy to reduce the cost of bandwidth, Mr. Sekar said the government must ensure network reach in remote, hilly areas. Underlining the need for providing affordable higher education to more youngsters, he said the government must increase funding for education, as private institutions have their limits in extending scholarships. Programmes such as the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship must reach all institutions. The government must adopt a liberal approach, allowing institutions to open more campuses and increase the intake of students.

Relevance of hackathons

To a question about the relevance of mentorship and hackathons at educational institutions, Mr. Sekar cited examples at VIT, wherein hackathons are conducted as assessment tools and startups are funded. Students are encouraged to solve problems provided by industries as part of their course and this, in turn, develops entrepreneurship. What starts as simple problem-solving in a classroom leads to the creation of startups through the Technology Business Incubator at VIT, and eventually, the betterment of society.

Collaborative initiatives

Elaborating on collaborative initiatives with the industry, he said close connect with the industries ensure better job prospects for students and prepare them for reality. Besides modules taught by industry experts, students learn soft skills for better employability. VIT also offers programmes for industry professionals.

Later, answering a question on the education sector's response to pandemic resilience by N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Group, Mr. Sekar said VIT switched to live online education and provided device and network access to students.

Building data centres in India far cheaper, says Raju Vegesna

Cost-effective: Raju Vegesna, Chairman and Managing Director, Sify Technologies, in conversation with John Xavier, Tech Editor, *The Hindu*, at the Tech Summit 2026 in Chennai on Thursday. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Building a data centre in the United States costs 2.5 times more than in India, making the latter a favoured destination for hyperscalers worldwide, Raju Vegesna, Chairman and Managing Director, Sify Technologies, said on Thursday.

When it came to building data centres, India was globally one of the most cost-effective in terms of cost per mega watt, he said at a fireside chat with John Xavier, Tech Editor, *The Hindu*, on the topic 'Powering India's AI Future: Data Centres, Capital, and the Race to Scale', as part of *The Hindu* Tech Summit 2026. The summit, hosted by *The Hindu*, is presented by Vellore Institute of Technology and co-presented by Sify Technologies.

Cheaper power

"In India, the labour cost and the cost of steel and cement are cheaper. Also, most of the things needed to build data centres such as transformers, cooling systems, and electrical accessories are all manufactured in India, though they are being made by MNCs," he said. "Today, if you compare the U.S. and India, the U.S. costs two-and-a-half times more," Mr. Vegesna added. "Similarly, in terms of power, we are about 40% cheaper than the U.S."

Welcoming the tax holiday announced in the Union Budget 2026-27 for building data centres in India, Mr. Vegesna says this will enable India to bill the data centres that set up shop here

That, he said, was the reason the hyperscaler companies were interested in coming to India to offer their services to the rest of the world. This was an advantage since it would help build a big ecosystem. Having a data centre with AI services would lead to the creation of institutions for training and knowledge transaction. On the downside, the kind of investment required for building a hyperscaler platform is not possible in India, which necessitates looking at other hybrid models ensuring co-existence of hyperscalers and private databanks, Mr. Vegesna said. "Over time, as we build our infrastructure and applications, India can also come up with hyperscaler entities," he said.

Tax holiday

Welcoming the tax holiday announced in the Union Budget 2026-27 for building data centres in India, Mr. Vegesna said this would enable India to bill the data centres that set up shop here. Besides, setting up a data centre required skilled manpower, right from the design and construction stages.

Outlining his experience in tackling obsolescence, he said the company invested in flexible plumbing that could accommodate any kind of server in the server hall. "We are not a build-to-suit-customer kind of a data centre. We are a full-grown colocation service provider. That means you just move your rack into our data centre and then plug and play," he said. On India's evolution pathway, Mr. Vegesna said India's opportunity lay in how the country could transform from IT services to AI services.

Geopolitical changes may help make GCCs resilient, say experts

A session on 'Resilient GCC: Continuity and Compliance at a Global Scale' under way at the Tech Summit. M. SRINATH

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Global disruptions caused by geopolitical developments could provide an opportunity for Global Capability Centres (GCC) based in India to build resilience while adapting to the challenges, speakers at a panel discussion said on Thursday.

Speaking on 'Resilient GCC: Continuity and Compliance at a Global Scale' at *The Hindu* Tech Summit 2026, industry experts said recent developments in global visa rules had affected talent mobility, forcing companies to adapt. Similarly, geopolitical developments affected data flow as well. These circumstances pushed the companies and the GCCs to adapt to the challenges arising out of these eventualities.

GCCs in India had witnessed rapid growth in the value chain and many among them had transformed to carrying out a large part of the core functions of the parent company. The global disruptions would only provide an opportunity for the GCCs to develop resilience, they added

Harsha Ram G., Business Head, Network Services, Sify Technologies, said in the face of global uncertainties, GCCs operating out of India were scaling up quite rapidly, while new GCCs were also being set up. There are 1,900 GCCs across India. "We have seen rapid growth in the value chain as some of the GCCs have even started developing or designing 70% to 80% of the core product in India," he said.

Deepak Kota, Director, Global IT Support, Mars Snacking, said many large-scale GCCs set up in the past were led by processes and efficiency, but of late, it was more about driving value and bringing back more critical capabilities to this part of the world. "Today, the focus is more on understanding the customer, hyper-personalisation in terms of certain markets, and optimising supply chain as well depending on where you operate," he said.

Kalilur Rahman, Senior GCC Advisor, said that over the past 10 years, India has transformed from being an "order taker" to being the pharma of the world. About 45% of innovative medical research was conducted in the pharma GCCs of the country, while a certain amount of biomedical research and innovative medical research was also being carried out in India, thanks to the technology available.

Santhosh Kumar M., Senior Director – Digital, KBR, Inc., said that while Indian GCCs in the oil and gas sector were getting a seat at the table in decision-making, care must be taken to consider behavioural challenges and people-related aspects while adopting to technologies on a global scale.

John Xavier, Tech Editor, *The Hindu*, moderated the session.

'Governing decisions is more important than governing infra'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

With AI systems influencing real-time decisions across sectors, experts at *The Hindu* Tech Summit 2026 cautioned that traditional governance, risk, and compliance (GRC) models are yet to catch up, exposing organisations to new and poorly understood risks.

At a session titled 'Governance, Risk, and Intelligence: The Next GRC Framework', Balakrishna Kanniah, vice-president, IT, IS and Digital, Alten India Pvt. Ltd., said that while platforms change, some things remain standard and static.

Experts at a discussion on 'Governance, Risk, and Intelligence: The Next GRC Framework' say traditional governance, risk, and compliance models are yet to catch up with emerging AI systems. M. SRINATH

Agentic AI

"Agentic AI has not changed the fundamentals of GRC. Governance models may change, but GRC itself has not been reinvented for projects. What has changed is the adoption rate. In my 25 years in the industry, earlier GRC was seen as audit-driven. Now that has changed. GRC has become a key driver of success for risk frameworks, operations, new projects, and products. Everything falls under it," he said.

Responding to a question on whether companies now govern infrastructure or decision-making, Gowdhaman Jothilingam, Global CISO and Head of IT at LatentView Analytics Ltd., said organisations today govern decisions, not infrastructure, which has largely been stabilised and scaled. The real differentiator, he said, is accountability.

FAIR model

From a cybersecurity standpoint, Mr. Jothilingam recommended the FAIR (Factor Analysis of Information Risk) model, an open-source standard for quantifying cyber risk.

Governance oversight

Speaking about the shift to continuous governance oversight in regulated sectors such as banking, Vennimalai Sundaresan, vice-president, data governance, Standard Chartered, said that while banks already have robust GRC frameworks and strong regulatory oversight, the real challenge lies in aligning traditional governance models with adaptive, real-time technologies.

A fundamental issue with AI, Sakthi Balan Muthaiah, Professor, Shiv Nadar University, pointed out, is anthropomorphism.

"We use words like intelligence, learning, and understanding, assuming AI behaves like humans. It does not. For example, humans learn multiplication assuming addition is already understood. AI models do not learn that way – they learn through pattern recognition. This assumption can go wrong, especially in auditing and regulation," he said.

The session was moderated by Koushik Ramani, Managing Partner, NetworkGain.

'Unlearn, relearn to stay relevant in technological era'

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Resilience is non-negotiable, but with technology evolving rapidly, organisations must unlearn outdated practices and relearn new skills to stay relevant and effective, panellists said on Thursday at *The Hindu* Tech Summit 2026 hosted by *The Hindu* along with VIT.

Speaking at a session on 'The Role of Technology in Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery', Amrish Kumar Jain, Chief Information Officer, Tally Solution, said it is difficult to predict technology upgradation and build resilience in the evolving technological landscape. But organisations must continue to upscale and adapt themselves to emerging technology. While resilience remains non-negotiable, real-time testing is essential to build robust disaster recovery system.

Noting that addition of an AI layer is enhancing every aspect, from design to operations, Roopesh Kumar, Head, Data Center Projects, SIFY Infinit Spaces Limited, highlighted the use of AI in predictive monitoring to prevent disasters. An additional AI layer in monitoring system are being deployed to improve efficiency and avoid the risk of incidents.

Panellists at a session on 'The Role of Technology in Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery' stress the need to unlearn outdated practices and relearn new skills to stay relevant and effective. M. SRINATH

Recalling how business continuity was sustained during the 2015 Chennai floods and the COVID-19 pandemic, Sendil Kumar Venkatesan, CTO, Shriram Capital, said the organisation made efforts to strengthen its system with resilience plan to reduce downtime. Application programming interface plays a major role in disaster recovery strategies. Every organisation must have a blueprint for data recovery drills, especially when operating in a multi-cloud environment.

At the session moderated by Suresh Vijayaraghavan, CTO, *The Hindu*, panellists also discussed the use of application monitoring tools that provide clear picture of whether alerts are genuine or false to address issues. Tracing the evolution of data technology since floppy disks, Santhosh T.G., Chief Digital Officer, Switch Mobility, said organisations must ensure back-up mechanisms and embed technology in business operations.

Highlighting how cloud technology has transformed AI ecosystem and simplified data recovery for customers, Suraj Ramesh, Senior Principal Product Manager, Oracle India Private Limited, said automation plays a critical role in data recovery.

INBRIEF

Forest manager Sean Dyche sacked after Wolves draw

Nottingham Forest manager Sean Dyche was sacked by the struggling Premier League club on Wednesday after a goalless draw with Wolves left them hovering above the relegation zone.

India under-17 men lose to Turkiye in second friendly

The India u-17 men lost 1-6 to Turkiye in their second football friendly in Antalya on Thursday.

The result: Turkiye 6 (Efe Secil 7, Efe Fettahoglu 14-pen, Alaettin Ekici 20, 28, Eren Sayar 30, Hasan Tuncel 85) bt India 1 (Denny Singh Wangkhem 47).

Brighton's Milner equals PL appearance record

Brighton and Hove Albion's James Milner, 40, equalled the Premier League appearance record on Wednesday as he came off the bench at Aston Villa for his 653rd top-flight game to move level with Gareth Barry. He has won two PL titles with Manchester City and one with Liverpool.

LIVE TELECAST

Women's Rising Stars Asia Cup: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 8 a.m.; India-A vs UAE, Sony Sports Ten 3 & LIV, 12.30 p.m.

Table Tennis: WTT Star Contender (Chennai), WTT Global YouTube Channel, 11 a.m. & 5 p.m.

Men's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 11 a.m. 3 & 7 p.m.

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)

Serie A: DAZN, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)

Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

LaLiga: FanCode, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Coton-Poret duo sends top seeds Manush and Manav packing in opening round

The Indian pair comes unstuck against the Frenchmen; Snehit and Ankur advance to the second round in men's singles; Ayhika moves up while Divyanshi crashes out in the women's section

WTT STAR CONTENDER

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

On the ball: Coton and Poret raised their game to shock Manav and Manush in four games. R. RAVINDRAN

Playing together only for the second time as a pair in two years, the unseeded French duo of Flavien Coton and Thibault Poret produced the biggest upset in men's doubles, putting it across the top-seeded Indian pair of Manush Shah and Manav Thakkar 12-10, 8-11, 11-5, 11-9 in the opening round of the WTT Star Contender at TNPESU here on Thursday.

Later, the top-seeded duo of Manush Shah and Diya Chitale edged past the Korean qualifiers Oh Seunghwan and Kim Seongjin in the mixed doubles first-round, 10-12, 11-6, 12-10, 5-11, 12-10.

Saving six game points and reeling eight points in a row from being 4-10 down in the first game must have been a huge morale booster for the Frenchmen. Even though the Indians fought back to win the second game, the Frenchmen were outstanding in both the short game and long rallies. The spark in Manush's game was missing as he made numerous unforced errors in receiving and his whipping forehand shots lacked the zip.

Leading 10-7 In the fifth and deciding game, Manush and Diya lost their way as the Koreans equalised at 10. However, Manush took the responsibility to unleash two forehand winners to settle the issue. They will meet Payas Jain and Syndrela Das in the second round.

On the upset victory, Poret said: "We last played in WTT Feeder in Panagyurishte (Bulgaria) in 2024. After that, we were supposed to play in WTT Contender in Muscat in November last, but I suffered an ankle injury. We didn't have any expectations coming into the tournament. We remain good friends and decided to take part here."

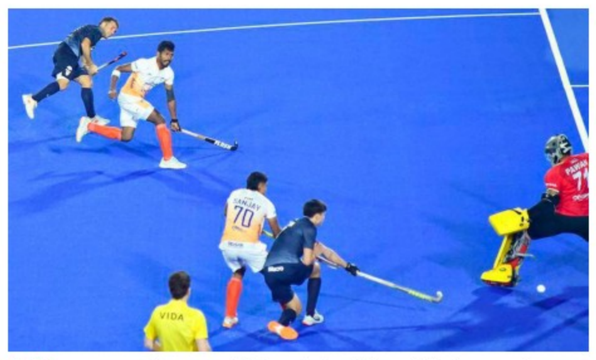
Important results (first round): Men's singles: S. F. R. Snehit bt Divyansh Srivastava 9-11, 11-8, 6-11, 11-7, 11-6; Park Ganghyeon (Korea) bt Sanil Shetty 4-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-6; Ankur Bhattacharjee bt Florian Bourrassaud (Fra) 11-5, 11-8, 3-11, 11-9.

Women's singles: Ryu Hanna (Korea) bt Divyanshi Bhowmick 6-11, 11-6, 11-8, 11-5; Ayhika Mukherjee bt Neha Kumari 11-3, 11-5, 11-4.

Men's doubles: Flavien Coton & Thibault Poret (Fra) bt Manav Thakkar & Manush Thakkar 12-10, 8-11, 11-5, 11-9; G. Sathiyan & Harmeet Desai bt Arjav Gupta & Jash Modi 11-6, 11-6, 11-4; Ankur Bhattacharjee & Payas Jain bt S. F. R. Snehit & Akash Pal 11-7, 11-7, 11-7;

Women's doubles: Ryu Hanna & Kim Nayeong (Kor) bt Ayhika Mukherjee & Sutirtha Mukherjee 11-4, 3-11, 6-11, 11-6, 11-8; Adina Diaconu & Andreea Dragoman (Rou) bt Taneesha Kotecha & Sayali Wani 7-11, 12-10, 11-5, 11-8; Sakura Yokoi & Sachi Aoki (Jpn) bt Divyanshi Bhowmick & Syndrela Das 11-8, 11-2, 11-4.

Mixed doubles: Manush Shah & Diya Chitale bt Oh Seunghwan & Kim Seongjin (Kor) 10-12, 11-6, 12-10, 5-11, 12-10; Payas Jain & Syndrela Das bt Iskender Kharki & Sarvinoz Mirkadirova (Kaz) 11-8, 11-6, 11-7.



Making merry: Domene, left top, helped himself to four goals. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Argentina puts eight past hapless India

PRO LEAGUE

Uthra Ganesan
ROURKELA

Indian men's hockey might have had its nemesis in Australia through the ages but the team lived through a fresh 60-minute nightmare at the Birsa Munda Stadium on Thursday, suffering a 8-0 humiliation against Argentina in its second FIH Pro League outing. This was India's biggest defeat in international competitions, equalling identical losses to the Netherlands (1985) and Australia (2010), and the biggest ever to Argentina.

In a game that was equal parts surreal and ridiculous, India appeared to be walking around in a trance and could barely put stick to ball even as the Argentines turned up the heat on the field. The start was fairly normal but the Indians looked like having a collective mental and physical shut down soon after.

The first ominous signs came when Harmanpreet Singh fluffed consecutive penalty strokes in the 13th minute, sending the ball slow enough to the left of Tomas Santiago for the goalkeeper to easily pad it away. A counter through the middle, two quick passes and Tomas Ruiz's backhand went over Suraj Karkera's head into the net. A penalty corner a minute later and Tomas Domene made it 2-0 inside the first 15 minutes.

The break seemed to turn off the lights on the Indians. There was no attack, no defence and no presence. There were bizarre happenings – Nilam Sanjeep Xess back-passed into an empty Indian circle with two Argentina forwards and Lucio Mendez happily accepted the gift.

Credit is also due to Argentina which made full use of the confusion in Indian ranks, forcing it to spread wide and open up space all over the field, going 7-0 at half time.

The second half was a contrast, not so much in India's performance as in Argentina being seemingly content with the scoreline and pulling back on the intensity. Domene got one in the final minute to round off his four-peat.

The result: India 0 lost to Argentina 8 (Tomas Domene 15-pc, 20, 26, 60, Tomas Ruiz 14, Lucio Mendez 22, Ignacio Ibarra 25, Nicolas Della Torre 30-pc).

कार्यालय - चिकित्सा अधीक्षक, राज.स्वा.वि.वि. आयुर्विज्ञान चिकित्सालय, जयपुर।
Office of the Medical Superintendent, RUHS Hospital of Medical Sciences, Jaipur
Address :Sector-11, Kumbha Marg, Pratap Nagar, Tonk Road, Jaipur -302033(Raj.)
दूरभाष: 0141–2792253, Email: supdt.hms@ruhsraj.org, ruhshmstore@ruhsraj.org

No. F. (11) RUHS HMS/Store/2025-26/13957 Dated 10-02-2026

Notice Inviting e-Bids

Single Stage Two envelope Online bids (e-bids) are invited upto 02.00 pm of 17-03-2026 for Supply and Installation of 1. Flat Panel Detector with Work Station, Qty. 02, Total Est. Cost Rs. 30.00 lacs, 2. USG Doppler Machine (High End / Premium End), Qty. 01, Total Est. Cost Rs. 120.00 Lacs, 3. USG Doppler Machine (Mid End), Qty. 01, Total Est. Cost Rs. 80.00 Lacs at Dept. of Radiodiagnosis, RUHS Hospital of Medical Sciences, Jaipur. Details may be seen in the Bidding Documents at the Website **sppp.raj.nic.in** or **eprocrajasthan.gov.in**.

UBN : CMS2526GLOB00117-119

Raj.Samwad/C/25/19733

(Dr. Anil Kumar Gupta)
Medical Superintendent

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer(Project),
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore- 560 009.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)

BWSSB invites Expression of interest from qualified agencies / firms for Engagement of an Energy Auditing Firms / Companies to provide consultancy services for conducting investment grade energy audit for pump sets & air blower systems of capacity of 60 HP and above of Sewage Treatment Plants & Sewage pumping systems of BWSSB and implementation support of energy efficiency measures.

The detailed notification is available in BWSSB website **https://bwssb.karnataka.gov.in** from **16.02.2026 to 01.03.2026** and the last date for submission of the proposals: **01.03.2026 upto 16.00 Hrs.**

The proposals by firms shall be submitted in hard copy to O/o Cheif Engineer(Porject), 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhvan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009 or may be sent through e-mail to : cep@bwssb.gov.in Interested agencies / firms may contact the office of the undersigned during working hours.

DIPR/CP/JA/5624/2025-26

Sd/-
Chief Engineer(Project)

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-2 (BSWML), 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560 052.

No. DGM-2/(BSWML)/Corr- 01/2025-26 **Date: 12.02.2026**

CORRIGENDUM- 1

Sub: Extension of Calendar of Events for Tender Notification.

Ref: This office Tender Notification No. DGM-2/BSWML/TEND/26/2025-26, Dated: 09.02.2026.

As per the above subject and reference, the calendar of events for the above tender notification is extended due to Administrative and Technical reasons.

Time schedule /calendar of events

Sl. No.		As per tender notification	Extended dates please read as
1	Pre bid meeting	On 16.02.2026 at 15:00 hrs.	On 21.02.2026 at 15:00 hrs.
2	Last date and time for uploading qualification documents	On 25.02.2026 up-to 16:00 hrs.	On 06.03.2026 up to 16:00 hrs.
3	Opening of tender date and time	On 26.02.2026 at 16:30 hrs.	On 07.03.2026 at 16:30 hrs.

For Further details visit GOK kpp portal Website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CP/5608/AKAR/2025-26

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-2
BSWML

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
WBSETCL
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcl.in

E-TENDER FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS ARE INVITED:-

NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/220 kV CB/25-26/38 Date: 13.02.2026	Procurement of 220 kV Circuit Breakers. Bid documents can be downloaded from **13.02.2026, 11:00 A.M.** and bids shall be submitted online up to **04:00 P.M., 11.03.2026.**
NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/400KV_CT/25-26/39 Date: 13.02.2026	Procurement of 400 kV Current Transformers. Bid documents can be downloaded from **13.02.2026, 11:00 A.M.** and bids shall be submitted online up to **02:00 P.M., 11.03.2026.**

Visit the following websites - www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details.

ICA-T3906(3)/2026

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Corporate Office: P.B. Road, Navanagar, Hubballi.
Tel/Fax No.: (0836) 2322771 / 2324307,
E-mail: seeit@hescom.co.in, Website: https://hescom.karnataka.gov.in
CIN: U31401KA2002SGC030437

No. HESCOM/SEE(IT&MT)/IT1/CCTV/760/2025-26/23609-10 **Dated:** 12.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

The Superintending Engineer (Elec.), IT & MT, HESCOM, Hubballi invites tender in two parts (Part-I: Techno-Commercial Bid and Part-II: Price Bid) through e-procurement portal for the following Procurement / work / Service.

Sl.No.	Bid Indent No.	Tender Description
1	**HESCOM/2025-26/SE0724**	1) Supply, Installation, Configuration, and Maintenance of CCTV cameras at Corporate office & across all Divisional Stores of HESCOM.
2	**HESCOM/2025-26/IND0123**	2) Supply and Installation of Computer and related IT Materials required for the office of HESCOM.

The detailed notification regarding the bid enquiry can be obtained by logging in to the website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or **after 13.02.2026.**

DIPR/Dharwad/Disha/1229/2025-26

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (Ele),
IT&MT, HESCOM, Hubballi

KMF Karnataka Cooperative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex: Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road,
DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 fax: 080-25536105

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/CFPR-IE4 Motors/1981/2025-26 **Date: 12-02-2026**

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION-3rd Call
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites Short term tender from the eligible manufacturers/authorised dealer through KPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested manufacturers/Suppliers who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of Completion
1	Supply of IE4 Motors at Cattle Feed Plant, Rajanukunte.	1 Job	50,000/-	2 months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: 16-02-2026 to 23-02-2026 up to 4.00 pm.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: 23-02-2026 up to 4.00 pm
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 24-02-2026 at 4:30 pm.

Hence forth changes / modification in the tender, It will be uploaded on KPP portal only

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

BENGALURU EAST CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (Ele), BECC,
Old Madras Road, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru-560036.

No. BECC/EE/ELE/TEND/02/2025-26 Date: 12.02.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
Two Cover System (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer (Electrical), BECC, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BECC invites Tenders from eligible contractors registered in BECC or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Operation & Maintenance of street lighting system in **Horamavu Division of BECC (E01).** Amount put to tender : **Rs. 166.11 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 1.00 lakh** through KPP portal, another **Rs. 1.50 lakhs** vide BG/FDR.
2	Operation & Maintenance of street lighting system in **Ramamurthynagar Division of BECC (E02).** Amount put to tender : **Rs. 163.60 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 1.00 lakh** through KPP portal, another **Rs. 1.46 lakhs** vide BG/FDR.
3	Operation & Maintenance of street lighting system in **K.R. Puram Division of BECC (E03).** Amount put to tender : **Rs. 160.28 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 1.00 lakh** through KPP portal, another **Rs. 1.41 lakhs** vide BG/FDR.
4	Operation & Maintenance of street lighting system in **HAL Airport Division of BECC (E04).** Amount put to tender : **Rs. 158.67 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 1.00 lakh** through KPP portal, another **Rs. 1.38 lakhs** vide BG/FDR.
5	Operation & Maintenance of street lighting system in **Doddanekundi Division of BECC (E05).** Amount put to tender : **Rs. 139.54 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 1.00 lakh** through KPP portal, another **Rs. 1.10 lakhs** vide BG/FDR.
6	Operation & Maintenance of street lighting system in **Marathalli Division of BECC (E06).** Amount put to tender : **Rs. 139.54 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 1.00 lakh** through KPP portal, another **Rs. 1.10 lakhs** vide BG/FDR.
7	Operation & Maintenance of street lighting system in **Whitefield Division of BECC (E07).** Amount put to tender : **Rs. 145.38 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 1.00 lakh** through KPP portal, another **Rs. 1.19 lakhs** vide BG/FDR.
8	Operation & Maintenance of street lighting system in **Kadugodi Division of BECC (E08).** Amount put to tender : **Rs. 150.33 lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 1.00 lakh** through KPP portal, another **Rs. 1.26 lakhs** vide BG/FDR.

Period of completion : **365 days (for each work).**

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 13.02.2026, 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of pre-bid meeting : **21.02.2026 at 12.00 hrs. (3)** Last date for submisison of tenders : **03.03.2026 upto 16.00 hrs. (4)** Date of opening of technical bid : **04.03.2026 at 16.30 hrs. (5)** Date of opening of Financial bid: **06.03.2026 at 11.00 hrs.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Electrical), BECC

Government of Karnataka
POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Superintendent of Police,
D.K District, Mangalore
(E-mail ID:- ssestmaq@ksp.gov.in & storesmaq@ksp.gov.in)

No. STS/105 (4,5) DK/2025-26 Dated: 12-02-2026

RETENDER NOTICE

The tender is invited in "Two Cover System" as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 through e-Procurement portal of Government of Karnataka **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** for supply of Traffic and Road Safety Equipments for D.K District Police Unit.

Description of Tender: (1) Last Date for Tender Queries and Clarification: **16-02-2026 upto 11.00 Hrs** (2) Last Date and time for submission of tender: **19-02-2026 at 17.00 Hrs** (3) Date and Time opening of Technical Bid: **21-02-2026 at 11.00 Hrs** (4) Date and Time opening of Financial Bid: **23-02-2026 at 11.00 Hrs**

Office of the Superintendent of Police invites the bid in Mangaluru for the

Sl No	Detailes of Items	Budget
1	**Purchase And Installation Of Automatic Number Plate Recognition Cameras (ANPR) Or Closed Circuit Television Cameras (CCTV)**	**52,63,150-00**

In order to participate in e-Procurement platform all the intended tenderers have to register in the e-Procurement portal. The Tenderers who participate can take assistance with e- Procurement helpdesk at **080-23010900, 23010901** in order to participate in the e-Procurement tender. It is mandatory for tenderers to register in e-Procurement platform.

Please visit **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for any further clarification or information, the tenderer may contact. The Superintendent of Police, Dakshina Kannada District **Contact No. 09480805301 and Telephone No.0824-2220503.**

DIPR/DK/KSMCA/1583/25-26 Dt.12.02.2026

Sd/- Superintendent of Police
D.K District, Mangaluru

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Traffic Engineering Cell Division, Room No.09, Ground Floor,
Annex Building-3, Greater Bengaluru Authority Office Premises,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: BCCC/EE/TEC/Tend/01/2025-26/CALL-2 Date: 12-02-2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering Cell Division, BCCC, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Construction of Work detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Filling of Potholes using Jet Patcher. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs): 210.00, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 3.25 (Rs. 1.00 Lakh through e-Payment & Remaining as Specified in Bid Document).**

Calendar of Events: 1) The Tender Documents may be Downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 13-02-2026 onwards. 2)** Last Date for Receipt of Tender Queries: **18-02-2026 upto 15.00 Hours through KPP Portal Only. 3)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting on **19-02-2026 at 16.30 Hours in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Bengaluru Central City Corporation, Zone-1, 18th Floor, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Public Utility Building, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bengaluru - 560001. 4)** Last Date for Receipt of Tenders: **21-02-2026 upto 17.00 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid: **23-02-2026 after 17.00 Hours. 6)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **Will be intimated to the Qualified Tenderers.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Traffic Engineering Cell Division, BCCC.